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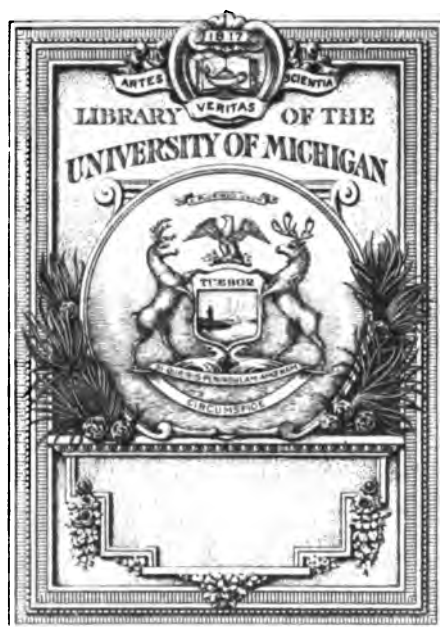
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Portrait of Thomas Pinckney, by John W. F. Johnston, 1844.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

Thomas Pinckney



# Slaves of the South



ALBANY,  
J. MUNSIELL, 82 STATE STREET  
1866.

*Slaves of the South*



Engr. by R. J. Atkinson from an original portrait by J. Smith T.A.S.

THOMAS PINCKNEY, AMERICAN DIPLOMAT

*Thomas Pinckney*

# Steps of S. 10

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Thomas Pickney

*ought, Grant in America.*

THE  
**Siege of Savannah,**

BY THE  
COMBINED AMERICAN AND  
FRENCH FORCES,  
UNDER THE COMMAND OF  
GEN. LINCOLN, AND THE COUNT D'ESTAING,  
IN THE  
Autumn of 1779.



ALBANY:  
J. MUNSELL, 82 STATE STREET.  
1866.



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## P R E F A C E .

**T**HE unfortunate Issue of the Enterprise undertaken in 1779, to recover Possession of the Capital of Georgia, has left a gloomy Page in our Revolutionary History, not only from its Failure as a military Movement, but from the melancholy Casualty which deprived our Army of one of its most talented Leaders, the Polish General Count Pulaski.

The Depression of the Patriots of the Revolution by these Reverses, was destined to be still further increased by the subsequent Success of the British Arms in the Southern Colonies, while it afforded Cause of Exultation among the Loyalists, who confidently predicted the speedy and effect-

ual Restoration of the Royal Authority throughout the revolted Colonies.

The Columns of the *Royal Gazette* bear Witness to the Strength of this Hope, while they at the same Time exhibit the Feeling of Bitterness which they cherished towards those who had begun the War, and in which the Insurgents had already achieved Success on many Occasions.

The following Pages present the Accounts that were published in Mr. Rivington's Paper, upon the Subject of the unsuccessful Attempt of the combined American and French Forces to capture the City of Savannah, in the Months of September and October, 1779.

According to the Plan proposed for this Series, we have briefly stated the Circumstances which preceded and attended the Event, before presenting the Documents that embrace the Details; and have placed in the Appendix, such other Statements and Papers, as would more fully present the Subject in all its Bearings, and under every Point of View.





## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE Manifestations of Sympathy with the Revolution in the Colony of Georgia, although perhaps not less earnest, was less aggressive than in the North, and did not attract the Notice of the British Administration as requiring particular Effort on their Part in the earlier Years of the War. Although the Patriots of that Section entered into the Measures aiming at a Reform in Government with great Zeal, it was doubtless believed that when once the Armies in the North were vanquished, the whole Country would acquiesce in the Necessity of Obedience to the British Rule, without the Trouble of sending costly Armies and Navies to receive the Submission of the late Insurgents.

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The Number of Sympathizers with the British Cause, was relatively much larger than in the northern Colonies, and in Proportion as this Cause prevailed, large Numbers of the Colonists lent their willing Aid in its Support, or passively yielded their Acquiescence to its Terms.

There were however, many earnest and vigorous Advocates of the Revolution, especially in the Upper Country, and the partizan Warfare which they continued to maintain long after the Cities on the Coast had been apparently settled as permanent Dependencies of the Crown, furnishes some of the most brilliant Passages in our Revolutionary History. The Contest became in some Parts a War of Extermination, and it appeared as if one Party must be entirely rooted out, before the other could live in Peace.

The Events of the War having shown that the Presence of a British Army was necessary to the Maintenance of the Royal Cause, and probably in the Expectation that

with this Encouragement, the loyal Portions of the Population, would venture to Rally in Force around the British Standard, an Expedition was fitted out from New York towards the Close of 1779, to establish themselves at Savannah.

The American Force at that Place, then consisted of between six and seven hundred Continentals, and a few hundred Militia under the Command of Major General Robert Howe.

The official Report of the British Officer who led this Expedition is embraced in the following Letter addressed to Lord George Germain, dated "Savannah, January 16, 1779:"

"In consequence of Orders from Sir Henry Clinton, to proceed to Georgia with his Majesty's 71st Regiment of Foot, two Battalions of Hessians, four Battalions of Provincials, and a Detachment of the Royal Artillery, Colonel Archibald Campbell embarked at Sandy Hook on the 27th November, 1778, and arrived off the Island of

Tybee on the 23d December, escorted by a Squadron under the Command of Commodore Parker. On the 24th, the greatest Part of the Transports got over the Bar and anchored in Savannah River. On the 27th, the Balance of Commodore Parker's Fleet joined him. During the Time occupied in bringing the last Division of the Fleet over the Bar, from the Provincial Battalions, were formed two Corps of Light Infantry, the one to be attached to Sir James Baird's light Company of the 71st Highlanders, the other to Captain Cameron's Company of the same Regiment. Having no Intelligence that could be depended upon with respect to the military Force of Georgia, or the Dispositions formed for its Defence, Sir James Baird's Highland Company of Light Infantry, in two Flat-boats, with Lieutenant Clarke, of the Navy, was dispatched in the Night of the 25th, to seize any of the Inhabitants they might find on the Banks of Wilmington River. Two Men were taken, from whom the Enemy derived In-

formation which they considered Satisfactory, and induced them to resolve to land the Troops the next Evening at the Plantation of Mr. Gerredeaux, twelve Miles further up the River, and two Miles from the Town of Savannah. The Vigilant Man-of-war, with the Comet Galley, the Keppel armed Brig, and the Greenwich armed Sloop, followed by the Transports in three Divisions, in the Order established for a Descent, proceeded up the River with the Tide, at Noon. About four o'clock in the Evening the Vigilant opened the Reach to Gerredeaux's Plantation, and was cannonaded by two American Galleys.

“ The Tide and Evening being too far spent, and many of the Transports having been grounded at the Distance of five or six Miles below Gerredeaux's Plantation, the Descent was delayed until next Morning. The first Division of Troops, consisting of all the Light Infantry of the Army, the New York Volunteers, and the first Battalion of the 71st, under the Command of

Lieutenant-Colonel Maitland, were landed at Break of Day on the River Dam in front of Gerredeaux's, from whence a narrow Causeway of six hundred Yards in Length, with a Ditch on each Side, led through a Swamp directly for Gerredeaux's House, which stood upon a Bluff about thirty Feet high. The Light Infantry, under Captain Cameron, having first reached the Shore, were formed, and led briskly forward to the Bluff, where a Body of fifty Americans were posted, and from whom they received a smart Fire of Musketry; but the Enemy rushed forward and drove them into the Woods, and secured a Landing for the Rest of the Army. Captain Cameron and two Highlanders were killed, and five Highlanders wounded. The Army of Major-General Howe was drawn up about Half a Mile East of the City of Savannah, with several Pieces of Cannon in their Front. The first Division of Troops, together with one Company of the second Battalion of the 71st, the first Battalion of Delancey's,

the Wellworth, and a Part of the Wiffenbach Regiment of Hessians being landed, Colonel Campbell went in Pursuit of the Americans, leaving a considerable Force to cover the Landing-place. On the Troops reaching the Road leading to Savannah, the Division of the Wiffenbach Regiment was posted on the Cross-roads, to secure the Rear of the Army; a thick Swamp covered the Left of the Line of March, and the Light Infantry, with the Flankers of each Corps, effectually covered the cultivated Plantations on the Right. The Troops reached the open Country, near Tattnall's Plantation, before three o'Clock in the Afternoon, and halted on the Road about two hundred Paces short of the Gate leading to Governor Wright's Plantation.

“ The American Army were drawn up across the Road, at the Distance of eight hundred Yards from this Gateway. One-half, consisting of Thompson's and Huger's Regiments of Carolina Troops, were formed

under Col. Huger, with their Left oblique to the Road leading to Savannah, their Right to a wooded Swamp covered by the Houses of Tatnall's Plantation, in which some Riflemen had been placed. The other Half of the American Army, consisting of Part of the first, second, third, and fourth Battalions of the Georgia Brigade, was formed under Colonel Elbert, with their Right to the Road, and their Left to the Rice Swamps of Governor Wright's Plantation, with the Fort of Savannah Bluff behind their left Wing, in the Style of a second Flank; the Town of Savannah, round which were the Remains of an old Line of Intrenchment, covered their Rear. One Piece of Cannon was planted on the Right of their Line, about one hundred Paces in Front of the Traverse. At a Spot between two Swamps a Trench was cut across the Road; and about one hundred Yards in Front of this Trench a marshy Rivulet run almost parallel the whole Ex-



tent of their Front; the Bridge of which was burnt down, to interrupt the Passage and retard the Progress of the English.

Colonel Campbell discovered, from the Movements of the Americans, that they expected an Attack upon their Left, and he was desirous of confirming that Expectation. Having fallen in with a Negro named Quamino Dolly, Colonel Campbell induced him, by a small Reward, to conduct the Troops, by a private Path through the Swamp, upon the Right of the Americans. Colonel Campbell ordered the first Battalion of the 71st to form on his Right of the Road, and move up to the Rear of the Light Infantry, whilst he drew off that Corps to the Right, as if he meant to extend his Front to that Quarter, where a Fall of Ground favoured the Concealment of this Manœuvre. Sir James Baird had Orders to convey the Light Infantry to the hollow Ground quite to the Rear, and penetrate the Swamp upon the Enemy's Left, with a

View to get round, by the new Barracks, into the Rear of the Enemy's right Flank. The New York Volunteers, under Colonel Tumbull, were ordered to support him. During the Course of this Movement, the Enemy's Artillery were formed in a Field on their Left of the Road, concealed from the Americans by a Swell of Ground in Front, to which Colonel Campbell meant to run them up for Action, when the Signal was made to engage, and from whence he could either bear advantageously upon the Right of the American Line as it was then formed, or cannonade any Body of Troops in Flank which they might detach into the Wood to retard the Progress of the Light Infantry. Campbell then commenced the Attack, and the American Line was broken. About one hundred of the Georgia Militia, under the Command of Colonel George Walton, posted at the new Barracks with some Pieces of Cannon, were attacked by Sir James Baird, and after fighting bravely, were compelled to retreat. The General

(Howe) ordered a general Retreat, which was made in great Confusion."

In the Capture of Savannah, the Americans lost about one hundred killed on the Field, or drowned in endeavoring to retreat, and thirty-eight Officers and four hundred and fifteen Privates were captured. All their Cannon, Munitions and Provisions fell into the Enemy's Hands, with but the moderate Loss on their Part of seven killed and nineteen wounded. No Blame was, under the Circumstances, attached to General Howe, who was subsequently honorably acquitted by a Court of Inquiry.<sup>1</sup>

A conciliatory Policy was adopted by the Victors, which attracted Multitudes of the Inhabitants to the Royal Cause. A Series of successful Movements against Sunbury, Augusta and other Points, seemed to decide the future Destinies of this Colony, and

<sup>1</sup> The Losses of the Americans besides in Men, were, one Stand of Colours, forty-eight Cannon, twenty-three Mortars, ninety-four Barrels of Powder, and the Fort with all its Stores. Savannah was then the Capital of Georgia.

called the Attention of Congress to the Necessity of making a decisive Effort to regain their Losses in the Southern Department.

Charleston was at this Time an important Post still in the Hands of the Americans, but was dependent upon the civil Authorities for its Supplies, and Embarrassments existed in the local Administration which threatened the most serious Consequences.

In the preceding September, a Change had been ordered in the Command of the Southern Department, by which General Benjamin Lincoln of Massachusetts, was assigned to that Post, and General Howe was directed to report to General Washington. Under this Arrangement Gen. Lincoln had proceeded to Charleston, from whence, upon learning of the Entrance of the British Fleet into the Savannah River, he marched to the Relief of Gen. Howe, but upon arriving at a Point on the north Side of the River he learned of the Disaster which

had happened below, and was soon joined by the Remnant of the defeated Army.

The Savannah River now remained for some Time the dividing Line between the two Forces. The whole of Georgia was considered so far under British Authority, that a civil Government was established, and executive and judicial Officers appointed.

The Frontiers were however not allowed to remain quiet, and the early Months of 1779 were spent in alternate aggressive and defensive Movements by General Lincoln and General Prevost,<sup>1</sup> in the Course of which, the former undertook to establish himself at Augusta, while the latter attacked Charleston from the land Side, but without Success. After a Series of Operations upon the Islands on the Coast the British Army returned to Savannah and St. Augustine,

<sup>1</sup> Major General Augustine Prevost was then in Command. His Rank dated from May 25, 1772. He sailed for England in the Brig *Three Friends*, soon after the Siege of Savannah was raised. He was a Native of Switzerland, and died in 1786. His Son George was Governor in Canada in the War of 1812-15.

after establishing a Post on the Island contiguous to Port Royal and St. Helena, and at various Points in the Interior, while General Lincoln with about eight hundred Men retired to Sheldon, near Beaufort, to prepare for the next Campaign, which it was supposed would open in October.

The French, then at War with the English, had at this Time a large Fleet in the West Indies. The British Forces had captured St. Lucia, and the French had reduced St. Vincents and Grenada, and at about the Time when the latter Event occurred, the Count d'Estaing, who commanded the French Fleet, received such large Reinforcements as to give him for the Time being a decided naval Superiority.

A Representation was accordingly made to the Count d'Estaing, by Governor Rutledge of South Carolina and General Lincoln, in Concert with M. Plombard, French Consul at Charleston, which induced him to undertake with the Continental Forces under General Lincoln, a combined Attack

upon their common Enemy, the English, at Savannah.

The Proposition being favorably received, the Count, in Conformity to his Instructions to aid the Americans whenever a fair Opportunity should offer, prepared to undertake the Enterprize. He accordingly left Cape François, with twenty-two Ships of the Line and eleven Frigates, having on board six thousand land Troops and appeared at the Mouth of the Savannah River, before the English had got Intelligence of the Plan, and at a Time when they were least expecting a hostile Visit.

The first Intimation of the Approach of the French Fleet was received by General Prevost on the third of September. He hastened to call in the Forces under Colonel Maitland at Port Royal, and several Detachments in the Interior for the Defence of the Capital.

General Lincoln upon being notified of these Movements, marched to coöperate with the Forces under his Command, but

his Route was greatly delayed by the Destruction of Bridges and the Want of Transportation, and he did not effect a Junction until the sixteenth.

The Count d'Estaing had before this, demanded a Surrender of the Town, but had unwisely allowed the Correspondence which ensued to delay his own Operations, while this Interval was actively improved by General Prevost in preparing for a vigorous Defence. One can scarcely read this Correspondence without being convinced, that it was protracted by the British as long as possible to await the Arrival of their Reinforcements. Although the French held the main Channel of the River, there were still several Routes behind the Islands which they could not blockade. The English on their Part, sunk Vessels in the River, to hinder the Passage of the French Fleet, and called into Service all the Labor that could be reached, to erect Fortifications before the Town.



The Siege began on the 23d of September and on the 1st of October he had advanced within three hundred Yards of the British Works, Batteries were planted, and a heavy Cannonade opened upon the British Works and the Town. The Prosecution of the Siege, by regular Approaches, was a Work of Time, and the Season was getting late and dangerous for the Fleet upon an insecure Coast and at a Period when Tempests become frequent and destructive.

It was therefore resolved to attempt to carry the Place by Assault. On the 9th of October an Attack was made along a hollow Way on the Left of the allied Army which covered the Advance, to within fifty Yards of the main Works, while Feints were made by the Militia at other Points. The Assault was made in three Columns by about three thousand five hundred French and one thousand Americans, including Continentals and Charleston Militia.

These Columns were met by a more

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vigorous Resistance than was expected, yet they pressed forward with Ardor, passed through the Abatis and Ditch and mounted the Parapet, where both French and Americans, planted their Standards, but they were finally compelled to Retreat with heavy Loss. The Count Pulaski, while charging at the Head of about two hundred Horse, in the Rear, received a severe Wound of which he died a few Days after. The Count d'Estaing and Major General De Montange were also wounded.

After this Repulse, the Count d'Estaing resolved to raise the Siege. The Remonstrances of General Lincoln proved unavailing, and the Removal of the heavy Ordnance and Stores was commenced. The American Army recrossed the Savannah at Zubly's Ferry, and took Post again in South Carolina, while the French Fleet passed out of the River and disappeared from the Coast.

A violent Gale dispersed this Fleet, so that though the Count had directed seven

Sail to repair to the Chesapeake, but one Vessel was able to execute the Order. A Portion returned to the West Indies and the Rest to France.

The City of Savannah had at this Time about four hundred and thirty Houses, and it suffered considerably from the Siege. The Strength of the English Garrison was estimated at somewhat less than three thousand Men, and the Success with which they held the Place reflected great Credit upon their Valor and Spirit, while the Result depressed the Spirits of the American Army in a corresponding Degree. The high Expectations of Victory which had brought the Militia into the Field, were suddenly checked, and the Affairs of the Southern States wore a more gloomy Aspect than at any former Period.<sup>1</sup>

Colonel Maitland whose opportune Arrival probably decided the Fate of Savannah upon this Occasion, shared the Labors and

<sup>1</sup> *Marshall's Washington*, iv, 104.

Perils of the Siege, but soon after sickened and died of a Fever.

The English were not again disturbed in their Occupation of Savannah until they voluntarily withdrew on the 11th of July, 1782, leaving the Town in Possession to the American Authorities, and the Colony to its future Destiny as one of the States of the new Republic.






JOURNAL  
OF THE  
SIEGE OF SAVANNAH.

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 334, Dec. 11, 1779.]

By the Brig Elphington, Capt. Kennedy, who arrived here this Day, in fourteen Days from Georgia, we have received the following Advices :

SAVANNAH, November 18.

N Friday, the third of September last, several large Ships were seen off our Bar, and a Boat being sent out by Captain Brown, of his Majesty's Ship *Rose*,<sup>1</sup> with a Lieutenant on Board, they were plainly discovered to be French.

<sup>1</sup> This Vessel was sunk in the Channel, September 20th, to obstruct the River against the Approach of the French Fleet.

Monday Evening the 6th, a Sloop called the *General Mathews*, came up to Town. On the Thursday before, she was taken to the northward of the Bar, by a French 74 Ship. They took all the People out of her, except one Man, and put five Frenchmen in their Room. In the Gale of Wind that Night, she parted from the Man-of-war, and on Saturday Morning, arriving off Tybee, the Englishman told the Frenchmen that it was the Entrance to Charlestown, and by that Means soon brought the Sloop to Anchor in the Mouth of the River. After the Arrival of this Vessel, it was said, that the Fleet consisted of the *Magnifique*, of 74, and *Sphinx*, of 64 Guns, (Part of a Reinforcement of four Line-of-battle Ships lately sent from France to join Count d'Estaing in the West Indies), two Frigates, a Schooner, and a Cutter, all from Cape François, bound to Boston for Masts and Spars.

On Tuesday the 7th, a Number of Vessels appeared off Tybee Bar, but went off

again, and next Day, about 51 were reckoned off Waffaw, 25 of which were said to be Ships of the Line.

Thursday Morning the 9th, they were all off Tybee again, and some of them fired at Captain McDonough's Packetboat from St. Augustine, attempting to get in, which fell into their Hands. That Evening, four Frigates got over the Bar, and came to an anchor at Tybee, and in the Night, or early next Morning, landed a Number of Men on the Island. His Majesty's Ship *Savannah*, *Comet* Galley and some other Vessels, were ordered up the River to strengthen the Garrison on the French Vessels getting over the Bar.

The French who had landed reëmbarked on Friday the 10th, and all the Fleet, except the Frigates at Anchor at Tybee, steered for the Southward. Next Day they appeared again off the Bar.

It seemed now evident, that they intended a serious Attack on this Place. We had

for some Time been repairing the four old Redoubts, and making some additional Works, having been threatened with an Attack from the Rebels. But now the greatest and most extraordinary Exertions were made by Captain Moncrief,<sup>1</sup> Chief Engineer, and which he continued during the whole Siege with unremitting Ardor. Betwixt two and three hundred Negroes were ordered in by the Governor<sup>2</sup> and Council, immediately set to Work, and thirteen good Redoubts were soon erected round the Town, and 15 Gun Batteries containing about 76 Pieces of Cannon, 18, 9 and 6 Pounders, were raised between the Redoubts. These Batteries were manned by the Sailors of the Ships of War, Transports and Merchantmen, in the River, besides which, there were several Four-pound-

<sup>1</sup> Capt. George Moncrieffe of the 81st Regiment. His Rank dated December 23, 1777.

<sup>2</sup> Sir James Wright, Baronet, was at this Time Governor of Georgia.



ers, properly placed without the Batteries, and five Field Pieces.

On Sunday Night the 11th, the French began to land their Troops at Bewlie, about 14 Miles from Town.

Thursday the 16th, in the Forenoon, a Letter was sent into Camp by Count d'Estaing, the French General, DEMANDING A SURRENDER OF THE TOWN TO THE FRENCH KING.<sup>1</sup> He was then within three Miles of this Place. He boasted in his Letter, of his formidable Armament by Sea and Land; the great Feats he had performed with it in the West Indies, and mentioned how much Lord McCartney had suffered by not capitulating at Grenada, and that it was in vain to think of resisting his Force, warned General Prevost, against the Consequences attending the Place being taken by Storm, and hinted that he would be answerable for the Lives of the People that might be Lost, &c. The Answer re-

<sup>1</sup> This Correspondence is given on a subsequent Page.

turned to this Letter by General Prevost, was to the following Purport: That he hoped the Count had a better Opinion of him, and the British Army he had the Honor to Command, than to expect they would surrender the Town, &c. on a general Summons, without knowing on what specific Terms or Conditions: That if he had any Terms to offer, he desired they might be made known; and mentioned his having communicated the Contents of his Letter to the civil Governor.

To this the Count replied, that it was the Part of the Besieged, and not the Besiegers, to propose Terms: Upon which it was signified to him, that it was a Matter of great Consequence, and that there were many different Interests to be adjusted and settled, and therefore it was desired, that twenty-four Hours might be allowed to consider it. The Count accordingly agreed to wait till the firing of the Evening Gun<sup>1</sup> on Friday

<sup>1</sup> An Hour before Sunset.

the 17th. In the Afternoon of the 16th, a Council of War was held in the General's Tent, consisting of Field Officers, (the Governor and Lieutenant Governor being present), to consider of a final Answer to be sent to the Count, when it was the unanimous Opinion of the whole Members:— That the Town should be defended to the last Extremity, and that this Resolution should be made known to the French General.

This Day, to the inexpressible Joy of the whole Army, the Honourable Colonel Maitland, with Part of the Troops under his Command, arrived here from Beaufort, and on Friday the 17th, some more of them came up to Town. The Artillerymen of the Hessian Corps, Hessian Convalescents and about 170 of the 71st Regiment, were left with the *Vigilant*, armed Ship, three Gallies, and three Transports, which were obliged to remain at Dafuskee, with all the Artillery, Stores, Baggage, &c., some of the French Frigates having got a considerable

Way up the River. The whole of the Troops which arrived from Beaufort, amounted to about 800 Men. They were piloted up through the Marshes, and through Dasuskee Cut-off, where they were often up to the Middle in Mud and Water, and were brought up the River in small Boats.

On the Evening of Sunday the 19th, two French Frigates appeared in Sight of the Town below Salter's Island. Just before Dark, two Rebel Gallies came farther up, and exchanged a good many Shot with the *Savannah*, *Venus* Transport, and the *Comet* and *Thunderer* Gallies.

The French were busily employed in bringing Cannon, &c., from Bewlie till the 23d, when in the Night they broke Ground.

Next Morning about 90 of the Light Infantry under Major Graham, were sent out to endeavour to bring the French out of their Lines, thereby to form some Judgment of their Numbers, and bring them

open to the Fire of our Cannon. The Scheme succeeded. Major Graham was followed by a heavy Column of the French, who were exposed to the Fire of the Cannon, which galled them severely: Their Loss by good Authority, 14 Officers, and 145 Privates killed and wounded: Our Loss, 1 Subaltern and 3 Privates killed, and 15 wounded. In the Evening there was a good deal of Firing betwixt the Enemy's Gallies and ours.

In the Morning of Saturday the 25th, there was a smart Cannonade for a short Time from a French Battery of one 18 and one 6 Pounder; a Hessian was killed in his Tent by an 18 lb. Shot. Several Balls went through Houses in Town, but no Person was hurt. The Rebel Gallies in the Evening began again to fire at ours, which was returned, and likewise a good many Shot were fired at them from the Battery at the Trustee's Gardens, where Capt. John Mills commanded. Betwixt eight and nine at Night, one of the Enemy's Gallies, which

came up as far as the *Rose* Man-of-war, (funk on the Garden Bank), was soon obliged by the Fire from this Battery to be towed off to her former Station below Flyming's Island.

From the 24th the French were extending their Lines and Works, and bringing Cannon, Mortars, &c., from Bewlie, Thunderbolt, and Cafton's Bluff.

On Tuesday the 28th, a French armed Ship of 28 Guns, called the *Treuite*, anchored in the Back River, nearly opposite the Town.

Saturday Oct. 2d, about Noon, the above Ship, and the two Rebel Gallies began a heavy Fire upon the Town and Camp, which continued about an Hour, but did no Damage. During the Afternoon they fired a good deal more, as before.

On Sunday the 3d, at twelve at Night, the French opened a Bomb Battery of nine Mortars, and threw Shells into the Town and Camp all Night, one of which killed Ensign Pollard of the second Battal-

lion of Gen. De Lancey's Brigade, in a House on the Bay.

On the Morning of Monday the 4th, just as our Morning Gun was fired, the Enemy opened two Batteries, on which they had mounted 37 Pieces of Cannon, 18, 12, and 6 Pounders, from which they began a most furious Cannonade upon the Town, at the same Time not relaxing in their Bombardment. A young Woman, Daughter of Mrs. Thompson, on the Bay, was killed by one of the Shot, but no Person was hurt in Camp. During this Cannonade and Bombardment, the Ship in the Back River, and the Rebel Gallies also fired many Shot into the Town. The Fire from our Batteries was also very hot, and many Shells from seven small Cohorns were thrown into the French Works. This Day the Governor and Lieutenant Governor<sup>1</sup> moved to the Camp, having pitched a Tent next to Colonel Maitland's, on the right of the Line.

<sup>1</sup> Governor Sir James Wright ; Lieutenant Governor John Graham.

Tuesday, the 5th, at seven in the Morning, there was again a Cannonade and Bombardment from the Enemy. A Mulatto Man and three Negroes were killed in the Lieutenant Governor's Cellar. In the Evening the House of the Late Mrs. Lloyd, near the Church, was burnt by a Shell, and seven Negroes lost their Lives in it. Whilst the House was on Fire, one of the hottest Cannonadings they had yet made was kept up to prevent People from extinguishing the Flames. In the Night, another Shell fell through Mr. Laurie's House in Broughton Street, which killed two Women and two Children who were under it. The Bombardment and Cannonade continued all Night.

Wednesday, the 6th, there was another Cannonade and Bombardment as before, which shattered the Houses in Town considerably. The French opened another Battery of two small Guns near their Bomb Battery.

Thursday, the 7th, the same as the pre-



ceding Day ; several Carcasses were thrown during the Night, one of which burnt an old House on Broughton Street.

Capt. John Simpson, of the Georgia Loyalists, was killed on the Morning of Friday the 8th by a Grape-shot from one of the French Batteries, whilst he was walking in Major Wright's Redoubt. Much Damage was done this Day to the Houses by Cannon Shot. The Firing continued very hot all Night, and a great number of Shells were thrown, one of which fell into the Provost, killed two Men on the Spot, and wounded nine others, some of whom died since. Another burst in the Cellar, under the Office of the Commissioner of Claims, killed one Negro, and wounded another.

On Saturday, the 9th, about daybreak, an Attack<sup>1</sup> was made by the French and

<sup>1</sup> The British had been notified of the Plan of this Attack by James Curry, a Clerk of Charleston, who had been made Sergeant-Major of the Volunteer Grenadiers of that City, and who deserted to the Enemy. They were therefore prepared to resist the real Attack, and on their Guard against the feint Movements of the Allies.—*Stevens's Hist. of Georgia*, ii, 215.

Rebels upon the Redoubt to the Right of our Lines, on the Road leading to Ebenezer,<sup>1</sup> the Battery near the Spring, and on the Redoubt by Colonel Maitland's Tent, into which the Colonel, Governor and Lieutenant Governor repaired.

The Attack was made with great Spirit and Impetuosity by the French, supposed to be about 3,500, of the Flower of their Army; to which were joined about 2,500 Rebels, consisting of the Virginia and South Carolina Continentals, and South Carolina Militia. Count D'Estaing acted as First, and General Lincoln as Second in Command. The Morning being very Foggy, favored them in their Assault, which continued about an hour, when they were beat back, and most shamefully retreated with great Precipitation. The Troops who alone defeated this formidable Force consisted of

<sup>1</sup> A German Settlement, twenty-five Miles from Savannah. A Hospital was established there by the British in the Revolution.

## *Siege of Savannah.* 39

28 dismounted Dragoons,	}	In the Redoubt on the Ebenezer Road, where Captain Tawse commanded, and who fell in bravely defending it.
28 Battalion Men of the 60th Regiment,		
54 South Carolina Loyalists,		
90 of Col. Hamilton's North Carolina Loyalists,	}	In the Redoubt in which Colonel Maitland was.
75 Militia, under Capt's Wallace, Tallemach, and Polhill,		
74 Grenadiers, of the 60th Regiment,	}	Who were ordered to support the Redoubt, and bravely charged the Enemy with their Bayonets.
37 Marines,		

Besides the above, the Spring Battery of 6 Guns, manned by 31 Sailors, under the Command of Captains Manley and Stiel, did very great Execution, which contributed much to the glorious Success of the Day.

On the Left, the Rebels made two Feints; one on Major Wright's Redoubt by General Williamson,<sup>1</sup> with 500 Men, the other on Colonel Cruger's, by General Huger,<sup>2</sup> with

<sup>1</sup> General Andrew Williamson, whose subsequent Defection gave him the Title of the "Southern Arnold."

<sup>2</sup> General Isaac Huger, of South Carolina.

700 men; but both Parties soon returned, having about 500 Men killed and wounded.

After the Retreat of the Enemy from our Right, 270 Men, chiefly French, were found Dead; upwards of 80 of whom lay in the Ditch and on the Parapet of the Redoubt, first attacked, and 93 were within our Abattis. Two Rebel Standards were once fixed on the Redoubt on the Ebenezer Road; one of them was carried off again, and the other, which belonged to the Second Carolina Regiment, was taken.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Laurens, at the Head of the Light Infantry, the Second South Carolina Regiment, and the First Battalion of Charleston Militia, also attacked the Redoubt; and the Colors of the Second South Carolina Regiment, which had been presented to it by Mrs. Elliott, of Charleston, were for a Moment planted on the Berm by Lieutenants Hume and Bush, who being killed, Lieutenant Grey advanced to their Support; but he being mortally wounded, Sergeant Jasper rushed forward, and, though mortally wounded, brought off his Colors at the Expense of his Life.—*Stevens's Hist. of Georgia*, ii, 217. The daring and successful Enterprises of Sergeant William Jasper form some of the most striking Passages in the History of the Southern Campaigns of the Revolution.—*Bowen's Lincoln*, p. 315; *Garden's Anecdotes*, i, 6, 77, &c. Jasper County in Georgia has since been named in honor of this brave Sergeant.

Since the Attack, we have learnt from French Officers, Deferters and other, that they lost in killed and wounded 700 Men, some say 1,000, and others 1,800, reckoning 63 Officers, in the List of Slain. Amongst the Wounded were Count d'Estaing and the famous Polish Count Pulaski. The former received a Musket-shot in his Arm, and another in his Thigh ; the latter, a Grape-shot in his Groin, and is since dead.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Count Pulaski, with his Cavalry, followed the attacking Columns with the View of charging in the Rear of the Redoubts at the first vulnerable Point ; but, finding the Front of d'Estaing's Troops thrown into Confusion by the deadly Fire of the British, he left his Command to the Care of Colonel Horry, and with Captain Bentalou hastened on his black Charger to animate, by his Presence, the wavering Spirits of the Soldiers, and carry out the Plans of d'Estaing, now twice wounded, and borne from the Field. He dashed on heedless of Danger, and anxious only to retrieve the Discomfiture into which the head Columns had been thrown. He penetrated to the Spring Hill Redoubt — the Scene of the greatest Carnage, and, endeavoring to rally the disordered Troops, was struck by a Grape-shot from the last Gun of the Bastion. He reeled upon his Horse which, unguided, plunged madly forward until his noble Rider fell into the Arms of his Comrades, and was borne by them back from the murderous Conflict.

But nothing human could stand before the terrible Cannonade

Our Loss on this ever memorable Occasion was only Capt. Tawse, and 15 Privates

from the Enemy's Lines. Troops the bravest, Soldiers the most disciplined, Hearts the stoutest, quailed before the Angel of Death, as he seemed to spread out his Wings upon that Blood-covered Plain. When the second American Column, under McIntosh, reached the Spring Hill Redoubt, the Scene of Confusion was dreadful. They marched up over Ground strewn with the Dead and Dying; and seldom has the Sun of a warm October Morning looked down upon a Scene so mournful and appalling. The Smoke of the Muskets and Cannon hung broodingly over the Place, gathering denseness and darkness from every Discharge; and the Roar of Artillery, the Rattling of small Arms, the calling Bugle, the sounded Retreat, the stirring Drum, and the Cries of the Wounded blended startlingly together.

Colonel Huger, marching through the low Rice Grounds, reached his appointed Post, and was received with Music and a brisk Discharge, which killed twenty-eight of his Men, and compelled him to retreat. Only the Column of McIntosh was now fresh and ready for Action. But the Fate of the Day was decided; the French and Americans had been slain and wounded by hundreds, and their Bodies lined the Redoubts and Ditches. They had left their Camp in anticipation of decisive Victory, Blood-bought and Toil-earned, indeed, but yet Victory; and expected to Plant the Standards of the Army over the prostrate Ensigns of England; but the betrayal of their Plans of Attack, and the losing of their Way, with the consequent Detention till Daylight revealed their Position to the Enemy, changed the Fortunes of the Day, and, though bold, valiant, and persevering, they were repulsed and slaughtered. For one Hour, they had stood gallant and undaunted before the murderous Cannonade,

killed, and 35 wounded; amongst them, Lieut. Smollett Campbell of the Light Dragoons, and Lieut. James Wallace of the first Company of Militia.<sup>1</sup>

Our whole Force—Regulars, Militia, Volunteers and Sailors—on Duty did not exceed 2,350 Men.

A Flag was soon sent in by the Enemy, desiring a Truce for the Burial of their Dead, and receiving the Wounded, which was agreed to till three o'clock in the Afternoon, and then prolonged till dark. During the Night there was a slight Cannonading on both Sides, and many Deserters came in.

Sunday, 10th, several Flags passed, and Truces were agreed to for the above Purposes. Some Deserters came in during the Night.

which struck down Rank after Rank, and sent Dismay, by its sweeping Fury, into every Column until, finding further Attempt but useless Sacrifice of Life, a Retreat was ordered, and the Remains of that gallant Army were drawn off the Field.—*Stevens's Hist. of Georgia*, ii, 217.

<sup>1</sup> See official Report of Casualties in the Appendix.

Monday, 11th, Deferters continued coming in, who informed that the French were sending off their Sick and Wounded, and heavy Cannon, on board their Ships; and that the Panic-struck Rebel Militia were running off in great numbers.

On Tuesday, the 12th, at day-light the French fired only three Shot from small Pieces of Cannon.

Wednesday, 13th, the Enemy, early in the Morning, fired one Shot from a Field-piece, in return for several from our Batteries. This Forenoon the *Truite* moved out of the Back River, and came to anchor at Five-Fathom-Hole, the Wind being unfavourable for her getting down the River. In the Night a few Shot from our Batteries produced some from the French.

On the Night of Thursday, the 14th, our firing was answered by the Enemy. Deferters still came in. Two more Rebel Gallies joined the others at Five-Fathom-Hole.

Friday, the 15th, we were informed that



all the Carolina Militia were gone off. This Day a Ship came up and joined the Enemy's Fleet. Deferters continued to come in. Much Firing from our Batteries in the Night, answered by three or four Guns from the French.

Saturday, the 16th, in the Afternoon there was a great deal of skirmishing on Mr. Gillivray's Plantation, betwixt some Negroes and a Party of Rebels, and the latter were several Times driven from the Buildings on the Plantation into the Woods. Want of Ammunition, however, obliged the Blacks to retreat in the Evening, with the Loss of one killed, and three or four wounded. The Enemy's Loss is not known. There was very little firing this Night from the French, who had sent off all their Cannon except two.

Sunday, the 17th, we were informed that the French Mulatto and Black Brigade had marched to Col. Mulryne's<sup>1</sup> to embark. The Enemy fired a few Shot in the Night.

<sup>1</sup> John Mullryne.

Monday, the 18th, our firing this Night was not answered by the Enemy.

On Tuesday, the 19th, we received Advice that the French had taken Post two Miles from Town, at the Cross-roads, leading to Brewton's,<sup>1</sup> with a Swamp on their Right and Left, and that the Rebels were crossing the River with all Expedition at the Two Sisters, and the Rev. Mr. Zubly's Ferry.<sup>2</sup> The French Batteries were this Day destroyed by Parties sent out for that Purpose.

Wednesday, 20th, the Militia were discharged; the Light Dragoons scoured the Country, and brought in some Prisoners. All the French embarked at Caston's Bluff in 100 Boats, in which they proceeded to Tybee, and went on board their Ships.

From the 21st to the 30th the Wind,

<sup>1</sup> Brewton's Hill was a Bluff, thirty Feet high, distant by Road three or four Miles from the Town. A narrow Causeway, a third of a Mile long, occurred on this Road.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. John J. Zubly, D.D., was at an early Period enlisted in the Continental Cause, and was a Delegate in Congress; but he subsequently gave his adherence to the Crown.

hanging to the Eastward, prevented the Enemy's Shipping that had come up the River from getting down. Cartels during the Time were coming up with Prisoners.

The 31st the French and Rebel Vessels got down to Cockspur.<sup>1</sup>

And on Tuesday, the 2d of November, the whole of the Enemy's Shipping that were at Tybee failed over the Bar, and left our Port open.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fort Pulaski was subsequently erected by the United States Government on Cockspur's Island, fourteen Miles below Savannah. It was begun in 1831.

<sup>2</sup> Professor Stevens, in reviewing the Events of this Siege, makes the following Remarks :

“Looking back upon the Siege of Savannah, and taking in all its Operations at one Survey, we are astonished at the Number of Errors which seemed to mark the Contest. The first great Error was in the French Fleet passing by Beaufort, without capturing Colonel Maitland and his eight Hundred Men. The overwhelming Force of the French could easily have effected this, but the Charleston Pilots refused to take the Ships over Port Royal Bar. Had this Regiment been captured, the Fate of the City would have been reversed. The second Error was in the hasty Summons of the City to surrender to the Arms of the King of France before d'Estaing had been joined by Lincoln. The joint Summons of these Generals, backed by the Presence of their joint Armies, would have produced a different Answer

It is not known which way the Count d'Estaing has steered his Course. It was

from the English Commander. The third great Error—the fatal Error—was in the French General granting a Truce of twenty-four Hours. That Truce saved the City. It was highly impolitic, when a sudden Impression was desired; but it was almost culpable, when the American General was not present, but was hourly expected, to concede such a Privilege without his approval. D'Estaing was too much flushed with the Victories of Grenada and St. Vincents to be cautious. Lincoln had been too long schooled in Disasters not to be wary and vigilant.

“The English Officers themselves acknowledged that had the combined Armies marched to Savannah at their first Junction, they could easily have taken it; so poorly defensible was it at the Beginning of the Siege. The Ignorance of their Guides, and the Betrayal of their Plan of Attack, completed the Series of Misfortunes which resulted in their Overthrow.

“The Season of the Year, both for Land and Sea Operations, was the most improper which could have been chosen. Who, that is at all acquainted with our Coast, does not know its peculiar Exposure to the equinoctial Gales of September? And who, that knows our Climate, is not aware of the almost certain Sickness which, during our Fall Months, attacks the Stranger, particularly at that Period, when camping near Swamps and Ditches? The consequence was, that the French Officers and Troops, both at Sea and on Land, were continually anxious, restive, longing to depart; fearing the Miasma on Shore and the Hurricane on the Ocean. Both came to them too soon; but the Destruction of neither equalled the Carnage of the Battle. There was a vauntingness at times in the Language of d'Estaing,

said 11 of his Line-of-battle Ships were to go with him to France, and the remainder to Chefapeak to refit and take in Provisions. Wherever they may have gone, it is to be hoped, when he is sent by the King, his Master, on another Expedition, should he have Occasion to summon a Garrison to surrender, and find it necessary to vaunt of

which rendered it too haughty to be brave. His Words at his Summons — ‘I have not been able to refuse the Army of the United States uniting itself with the King,’ is a strange Piece of Diplomacy; for it implies that he had endeavored to prevent it, when his very Purpose in coming to Georgia was to effect it. The Conduct of the French Troops during the Siege was exemplary and praiseworthy. A generous Emulation, and nothing more, pervaded both Armies; and the Bravery of the Allies needs no greater Comment than the Number of Dead and Wounded they left upon the Field of Battle. Washington, writing to General Lincoln two Months after this Attack, concerning its Failure, thus alludes to the Army: ‘While I regret the Misfortune, I feel a very sensible Pleasure in contemplating the gallant Behaviour of the Officers and Men of the French and American Army; and it adds not a little to my Consolation to learn that, instead of mutual Reproaches, which too often follow the Failure of Enterprises depending upon the Coöperation of Troops of different Nations, their Confidence in and Esteem for each other are increased.’”—*History of Georgia*, ii, 223.

the valorous Deeds he performed at Grenada, where, with an Army of 4,000 Men, he took a Fort by Storm, garrisoned with about 80 Regulars and some Militia, he will keep in remembrance the Names of General MEADOWS, and PREVOST. This will sufficiently serve to humble his haughty Spirit, and convince him that he is not altogether invincible.

It is imagined the French, in this late Bombardment, did not throw less than 1,000 Shells into the Town and Camp. The Carcasses thrown were in Number about twenty.

Last Sunday Morning, the Brig *Three Friends* sailed for London, in which went Passengers Capt. Shaw, of the 60th Regiment, Aid-de-camp to his Excellency, Gen. Prevost, and Capt. Christian, Commander of His Majesty's armed Ship *Vigilant*; also sailed for New York the Sloop *Crawford*, in which Capt. Patrick Campbell, of the 71st Regiment, went Passenger.

We are told that one of the French flat-

bottomed Boats, full of Soldiers and Sailors, when they began to land their Troops off Offabaw, in a Swell of the Sea, filled with Water, by which means the funk, and all on board perished.<sup>1</sup>

In consequence of a Proclamation, issued by His Excellency the Governor, last Friday<sup>2</sup> was observed here as a Day of public Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his very signal Mercies vouchsafed us during the Siege of this Town, by the united Forces of the French and Rebels.

All the French and Rebel Vessels have left this River.

November 25. A Vessel arrived at St. Augustine from Antigua, brings an Account of eleven store Ships, under Convoy of a 40 and a 32-Gun Ship from France, bound to Martinico, being taken by some of our Fleet in the West Indies.

<sup>1</sup> Captain Henry, of the Ship *Fowey*, states, in a Letter published in the Appendix, that the French lost one Hundred Men by this Accident.

<sup>2</sup> October 29, 1779.

Tuesday last, arrived here His Majesty's Ship *Blonde*, ANDREW BARCLAY, *Esqr.*, Commander, from New York, but last from St. Augustine, in which came Passenger Major Gen. LESLIE; Major Sheriff also came in the above Vessel from East Florida.

*Additions to the Journal of the Proceedings  
of the Victorious Army at Savannah in  
Georgia.*

On the 23d, some Officers' Wives were sent on Shore; they were taken on the Passage from New York at the same Time with the *Experiment*, Man-of-war.

On the 24th, the Comte Noailles, Nephew to the last Ambassador from France to our Court, with the Commander of the *Truette* Frigate, came to Savannah with the Seamen and Marines taken in the *Experiment* and *Ariel*; Sir James Wallace,<sup>1</sup> and Capt. Mc-

<sup>1</sup> The Journal of the *Experiment*, with an Account of her Capture, are given on a subsequent Page of this Volume.



Kinzie being said already to have embarked for Old France, in order to their being exchanged—there not being Officers of equal Rank to them here. The Comte declared the Panic of the Troops last embarked was such, that they would have laid down their Arms had we detached 500 of our Troops to pursue them; that 63 of their Officers were killed, and 20 wounded, and 1,000 of the best Soldiers of France, besides great Numbers by Sickness at their Landing; that their Effectives consisted of

Number of Effectives,	-	-	-	3,000
Marines from their Ships,	-	-	-	1,500
Mulattoes,	-	-	-	500
				<hr/>
				5,000
The Rebels consisted of,	-	-	-	2,500
				<hr/>
				7,500
				<hr/>

On the Day of the Attack, that the Returns of the Loss of Seamen and Marines in the Engagement with Admiral Byron, off Grenada, was upwards of 700 Men;

H

that the Death of Comte Brown was greatly lamented. Noailles added, that he was one of the best Officers the French King had in his Service; that their whole Fleet (which, on their first Arrival, consisted of 25 Ships of the Line, 13 Frigates, and 3 small-armed Vessels), are very thinly Manned, having lost many Seamen and Marines by Sickness since the Battle with Admiral Byron; and off Georgia, owing to bad Provisions and bad Weather, that the *Magnifique*, of 74 Guns, is so very leaky, that they were forced to take out her Guns, and that she and the *Valiant*, of 64, have not more than 140 Hands on board. In short, the Comte de Noailles says, that if ten Ships of the Line were to engage them in their present Condition, they would be able to take their whole Fleet; that in our Sortie on the 24th, the French had 17 Officers killed and wounded, and upwards of 150 Men; that Mons. Bougainville, and all the French Land and Sea Officers greatly exclaimed against Comte d'Estaing, and also

at the rascally behaviour of the Rebels on the Day of Battle.<sup>1</sup>

Great Honor is due to General Prevost for his steady, cool, and moderate Manner, in which he gave his Orders during the Siege, particularly on the Day of Attack. Our Chief Engineer, Capt. Moncrieffe, has immortalized himself by his indefatigable Perseverance in erecting and strengthening the Batteries, Redoubts, &c. \* \* \* It is said General Prevost has made a Disposition for the Recovery of the Post at Beaufort, of which we doubt not the Honourable General Leslie will soon take Possession.

It is with much Regret we announce the Death of Captain Eneas McIntosh,<sup>2</sup> Cap-

<sup>1</sup> The extreme Improbability that an Officer in the French Service should have willingly made such Disclosures of Losses to an Enemy, leads us to regard the Statements as altogether a Fiction, and invented by the English Writer of the above Article.

<sup>2</sup> Corrected in a subsequent Paper to *Angus* McIntosh. There was another Officer named Eneas McIntosh still at Savannah. The Estate of the Deceased was settled by Lachlan McIntosh, Commissary, No. 1,078, Water Street, N. Y.

tain and Paymaster of the 71st Regiment in Georgia.

The following is supposed, upon good Authority, to be the Disposition of the Comte d'Estaing's Fleet.

Twelve departed for Europe ; five, under Mons. De Grasse, for the West Indies. The Remainder, four of which have lost their Rudders, are lame Ducks, and scattered in different Parts of the Continent.





ANOTHER JOURNAL  
OF THE  
SIEGE OF SAVANNAH.

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 335, Dec. 15, 1779.]

**S**EPTEMBER 3, 1779. Saw from Tybee Light-house four large Ships in the Offing; sent Lieut. Lock in the Pilot Boat to reconnoitre them.

4th. The Lieutenant returned, and reported the strange Ships in the Offing to be two French Ships of the Line, two Frigates and a Sloop.

5th. They stood off this Day and appeared again.

6th. Lieut. Whitworth was dispatched with Advice to New York of the Enemy being on the Coast, but was chafed in by the French.

7th. Lieut. Whitworth failed again, and we hope escaped the Enemy, employed in founding the North Channel, and bringing

the *Rose*, *Keppel* and *Germain* Men-of-war into it, and mooring them.

8th. The Signal was made from the Light-house, of seeing 18 Sail; at Sunset counted 41 Sail, 32 of which appeared large Ships; an Officer and Reinforcement came to Tybee Fort, which had only one 24-pounder, and one 8½-inch Howitzer. Came down from Cockspur, and anchored in the North Channel. His Majesty's Ship *Fowey*, the *Savannah* armed Ship, Transports and Prison Ships, ready to go up to Savannah River. Started all the Water except the Ground Tier.

9th. At Daylight, saw the French Fleet, some of them in Chase of a Schooner with English Colours, which they took.

10th. Four of the Enemy's Ships got under Way at high Water, and stood for Tybee; the *Fowey* made the Signal to weigh; weighed with the *Fowey*, *Keppel* and *Comet* Galley, and run up Savannah River as far as Long Beach. The *Fowey* got aground on White Vester Bank. Or-

dered the *Keppel* and *Comet* to her Assistance, with Boats, Anchors, &c. The Fort was abandoned and burnt. The French Ships anchored off Tybee. The *Fowey* got off at high Water.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The following Orders were issued September 9th :

“ The Regiment of Wiffenbach to take their Ground of Encampment; likewise the 2d Battalion of General Delancey’s. In Case of an Alarm, which will be known by the beating to Arms, both at the Barracks and main Guard, the Troops are to repair to their several Posts without Confusion or Tumult.

“ Captain Stuart, of the British Legion, will take Post with his Men on the Right, near the River.

“ The Main Guard to be relieved by Convalescents from the Hessians.

“ Major Wright’s Corps to send their Convalescents in the old Fort. Twenty-four Men in the small Redoubt, and seventy Men in the Left Flank Redoubt, upon the Road to Tattall’s.

“ The Militia to assemble in Rear of the Barracks.

“ The Light Infantry, the Dragoons, and Carolina Light-horse, as a Reserve, two hundred Yards within the Barracks.

“ The King’s Rangers, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Brown, in the small Redoubt on the Right, with fifty Men; the Remainder extending towards the larger Redoubt on the Right.

“ The Carolinians, divided equally in the two large Redoubts.

“ The Battalion Men of the 60th Regiment in the right Redoubt, the Grenadiers on the Left, extending along the Abatis

11th. Employed sounding and laying off the Channel leading to Savannah. The *Fowey*, *Keppel*, and *Comet* Galley anchored there.

12th. At Sunset a French Ship anchored off Tybee; two more anchored in the South Channel, and one in the North. Perceived she was aground.

13th. At 2 P. M. a Sloop, the *Crawford*,

towards the Barracks; the Hessians on their Left, so as to fill up the Space to the Barracks.

"On the Left of the Barracks, the 3d Battalion of Skinner's, General Delancey's, and the New York Volunteers; and on their Left the 71st Regiment, lining the Abatis to the left Flank Redoubt, on the Road to Tatnall's.

"If all the Orders are silently and punctually obeyed, the General makes no doubt that if the Enemy should attempt to make an Attack but that they will be repulsed, and the Troops maintain their former well acquired Reputation. Nor will it be the first Time that British and Hessian Troops have beat a greater Superiority, both French and Americans, than it is probable they will have to encounter on this Occasion. The General repeats his firm Reliance on the Spirit and steady Coolness of the Troops he has the Honour to Command."—*Stevens's Hist. of Georgia*, ii, 203.

The original Order Book of General Prevost was in Possession of J. K. Tefft, Esq., of Savannah, when quoted by Mr. Stevens.



came along-side. Sent eight 9-Pounders, 400 Shot, and eight Barrels of Powder, &c., to the Army. The *Comet* Galley moved to Cockspur and exchanged some Shot with the French Ships aground—the French Fleet at anchor without the Bar. At 7 A. M., weighed, as did the *Fowey*, *Keppel*, and *Comet* Galley. At half past, the Ship took the Ground, but soon floated. Anchored with the small Bower. At 8 weighed, and came up the River. At 11 anchored at Five-Fathom-Hole.

14th. Sent Lieut. Lock 26 Seamen, Capt. Rankin, and all the Marines to reinforce the Army, per Order from Commodore Henry.

15th. At 2 the *Keppel* and *Comet* went down the Harbour to cover and protect the Troops expected from Beaufort. This Day I joined the Army with the remaining Part of the Officers and Ship's Company, leaving only enough to keep the Ship free. Posted the Officers and Seamen to the different

Batteries in the Line. The General received a Summons from Count d'Estaing<sup>1</sup> to surrender, &c., &c., TO THE ARMS OF THE FRENCH KING. A Council of War was

<sup>1</sup> Charles Hector Comte d'Estaing was born in Auvergne in 1729; began his military Career as a Colonel of Infantry, and soon after, being advanced to the Rank of Brigadier, was sent, under Count de Lally, to serve in the East Indies. He was taken Prisoner at Madras in 1759, and paroled, but had the Indiscretion to violate his Pledge; and, upon again falling into the Hands of the English, was treated with great Severity. He lay in close Confinement a long Time in the Hulks at Portsmouth, but was finally released. At the Peace of 1763 he was made Lieutenant-General of the naval Forces; but his Appointment occasioned Jealousies in the Navy which he never overcame.

In 1778 he was sent as Vice-Admiral to America with twelve Ships; but adverse Winds detained him till Lord Howe, with a much smaller Squadron in the Delaware, had reëmbarked, and landed his Troops in New York. When before Rhode Island, and about to attack the British, a Storm scattered and disabled his Fleet. His subsequent Success in the West Indies, and Failure before Savannah are noticed in these Pages. After this Repulse, he returned to France. In 1783, he commanded a French and Spanish Fleet at Cadiz, but the Peace put an End to this Expedition.

Entering with Spirit into the French Revolution, he became, in 1789, Commandant of the National Guard at Versailles; but his Career was not without grievous Stains upon his Name, and he perished under the Guillotine in April, 1794, under the Charge of being a counter Revolutionist.

called on the Occasion, and an Answer was sent. A Trooper of Pulaski's was brought in this Morning.

16th. The Remainder of the *Rose* and *Fowey's* Guns were landed. The Guns were immediately mounted on the different Batteries. Colonel Maitland, and the Troops from Beaufort arrived—71st and New York Volunteers; brave Fellows. Savannah in the highest Spirits.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Result of the impending Attack was doubtless decided by this Arrival.

“Every Avenue by which the Approach of Col. Maitland and his Highlanders could be looked for was closed; yet by unconquerable Industry, he discovered an obscure Creek, but little navigated; and, by dint of persevering Exertion, dragging his Boats through it, reached the Garrison before the Time allowed for Deliberation had expired. Entering the Council Chamber where Discussions were carrying on, he is said to have approached with hurried Step the Table, and, striking the Hilt of his Claymore against it, to have exclaimed, ‘the Man who utters a Syllable recommending Surrender, makes me his decided Enemy; it is necessary that either *he* or *I* should fall.’ So resolute a Speech, at a Moment so critical, produced the happiest Effect on the Minds of all. Hope and Courage regained their Influence in every Mind; each Individual repaired to his Post with Alacrity and Confidence; the Terms offered by the Besiegers were rejected,

17th. A Truce agreed on for 24 Hours, viz., till Gun-fire, P. M.<sup>1</sup>

18th. Continued Truce.

19th. Hands sent down to bring the Ships up nearer the Town. All the Ships

and the Town was saved."—*Garden's Anecdotes of the American Revolution*, Brooklyn Ed. 1865, iii, 101.

<sup>1</sup> The following Orders of the Day, for the 17th of September, indicate the Spirit with which the English Commander engaged in the impending Contest:

"GENERAL ORDERS.

"Camp before Savannah,—17th September, 1779.

"Parole — *Maitland*. Counter-sign — *St. George*.

"Field Officers for To-morrow — Lieutenant Colonel Cruger and Major Graham.

"The Troops to be under Arms this Afternoon at four o'clock; as the Enemy is now very near, an Attack may be hourly expected; the General therefore desires that the whole may be in instant readiness. By the known Steadiness and Spirit of the Troops, he has the most unlimited Dependence, doubting nothing of a glorious Victory, should the Enemy try their Strength. What is it that may not, by the Blessing of God, be expected from the united Efforts of British Sailors and Soldiers, and valliant Hessians, against an Enemy that they have often beat before? In Case of a Night Attack, the General earnestly requests the utmost Silence to be observed, and Attention to the Officers, who will be careful that the Men do not throw away their Fire at random, and warn them earnestly not to fire until ordered."—*Stevens's Hist. of Georgia*, ii, 311.

moved; the Pickets firing most Part of the Night.

20th. New Works thrown up, the French Ship Rebel Galleys moving up the River. Orders from Capt. Henry to scuttle and sink the *Rose* Man-of-War in the Channel, which was immediately done, after getting out as many of her Stores, &c., as the Time would admit. The *Savannah* arm'd Ship, and *Venus*, Transport, were burnt, with their Guns and Provisions, Ammunition, &c. Two or three Transports sunk at Five-Fathom-Hole, or thereabouts, with all their Sails burnt, &c., &c.

21st. Two Negros, deserted from the Enemy, report them Strong; Gen. Lincoln with the Rebel Army having joined the French, and that they are preparing to attack; strengthening our Works; firing occasionally on the Enemy to disturb them.

22d. The Enemy still opening Works to the Left; fired on them occasionally from the Batteries.

23d. Strengthening the Works, and throw-

ing up Intrenchments in Front of the different Corps in that Line.

24th. At seven in the Morning, saw the Enemy very busy intrenching themselves to the Left of the Barracks. Three Companies of Light Infantry made a Sortie with great Spirit. The Enemy being too numerous, obliged them to retreat under the Fire of our Batteries, with the loss of 21 killed and wounded. Lieut. McPherson, of the 71st, was killed. It is supposed the Enemy suffered considerably. The Enemy fired several Cannon in our Line from two 18-Pounders, and some 4-Pounders. A Flag was sent to bury the Dead, on both Sides. In the Afternoon the Enemy's Gallies advanced near the Works. Our Gallies exchanged several Shots with them, and returned under the Sea Battery. The new Battery behind the Barracks finished this Day, mounted with two 18-Pounders, two 9-Pounders, and Field-Pieces. Throwing up Intrenchments in Front of the different Corps in the French Lines, about

half a Musket Shot from our Abattis. The Pickets exchanged Shot the greater Part of the Night; we throwing Shells into their Works, and firing on them from our Batteries every fifteen Minutes.

25th. The French throw up new Works on the Left of the Barracks, in which they mounted two 18-Pounders en barbette, but were driven from them by our Batteries. In the Evening the Rebel Gallies advanced up to the *Rose*, but were obliged to retire, by the Fire of the *Comet* and *Thunderer* Gallies. Continued throwing Shells, and firing on their Works during the Night.

26th. At 11, A. M., the Enemy's Gallies fired a few Shot at the Fort on the Left of the Encampment, without Effect. A French Frigate advanced to Five-Fathom-Hole.

27th. At 3, A. M., a small Fire of Musketry from the Pickets. At 8, A. M., a Flag from the French, with private Letters from the British Prisoners. Destroyed the Barracks, and carried off the Wood, &c., leaving

the lower Part as a Breastwork, to prevent it being fired from the Enemy. Continued throwing Shells, and cannonading the Enemy's Works during the Night.

28th. At 1 in the Morning a small firing between the Picquets. A Rebel taken close to our Abattis. About 2, another firing from our Picquets. At 9, A. M., a French Frigate moved up the Back River, and moored her Stern and Head. Everything quiet this Day. The Enemy carrying on their Works. 8, P. M., the *Thunderer* Galley moored near the French Frigate, and began to cannonade her. The Frigate did not return her Fire.

29th. At Daylight this Morning, saw a new Intrenchment on the Left, raised during the Night by the Enemy, within half a Musket Shot of our Lines. Employed throwing up Breastworks to the Right and Left of the Barracks. Fired on the Enemy's Works every fifteen Minutes from the Batteries and Howitzers during the Night.



30th. At Daylight perceived the Enemy working and extending their Intrenchments. At 7, A. M., the *Thunderer* Galley advanced towards the French Frigate on the Back River, and fired at her. She did not return a Shot. The *Thunderer* returned, having broke the Platform of her Gun. At 10, A. M., a Brig came up to Five-Fathom-Hole. The Rebel Gallies on their former Station, near the Works below. The *Rose*, a Boat with a small Gun, fired at the *Thunderer* without effect; a Launch and another Boat went up the Back River. A Man came in from the Enemy; gives no satisfactory Intelligence. Some firing from the Battery on the Right, and the armed Vessels, on the Enemy at Yamacraw, as well as from the Batteries in the Front and the Left, on the French Intrenchments. This Night, an Officer of Pulaski's was wounded and brought into the Lines by the Picquets.

October 1st. At 7, A. M., the French Frigate in the Back River fired some Shot

towards the Town, and at the Negroes on Hutchinson's Island. Perceived the Enemy in Front and on the Left, having in their Works Embrasures, &c. A Flag from us to the French, with Letters from the wounded Officer taken last Night. Still employed in strengthening our Lines, particularly in Front. Sent out of the Lines two Dragoons of Pulaski Legion by a Flag, who had been detained some Time here, and received an Officer of the same Legion with a Flag, *Mons. Bentolosa*, who came to see the Officer that was wounded and brought in last Night. Employed in strongly throwing up a new Battery on our Left, to be mounted with eight 9-Pounders, to act on the Enemy's Batteries. In hourly expectation of the Attack. This Afternoon fresh Breezes from E.N.E. and Rain. Fired during the Night from the Batteries in Front, and threw some Shells into the French Intrenchments.

2d. Rainy Weather; Wind E.N.E.; the Enemy still working in their Intrench-

ments, and preparing the Batteries. At Noon the Enemy's Gallies advanced near the Sea Battery, and began to cannonade, as did the Frigate in the Back River. Several of their Shot came into the Rear of the Camp, and without doing Execution. The *Thunderer* returned a few Shot; the Sea Battery did not. A Defenter from Pulaski's Legion reports the Enemy's Batteries to be near ready. A Defenter from the French likewise with the same Account. The Frigate in the Back River fired again in the Afternoon without effect. Threw Shells, and fired from the Batteries into the French Intrenchments, to disturb them during the Night.

3d. Rainy Weather; Wind E.N.E.; the Enemy still working in the Intrenchments, and compleating their Batteries; the French Frigate firing on the Rear of the Camp without effect. At 12 o'clock this Night, the Enemy opened the Bomb Batteries, and fired warmly into the Town, but none into the Field.

4th. The Enemy still continue their Fire from the Bomb and other Batteries. It was returned by us.

5th. The Enemy still cannonading the Camp and Town. At Night a House took fire, but it went out without communicating to any other Building. The Frigate and Gallies firing as usual. Heard a cannonade at Sea.

6th. The Enemy still firing on the Works, Camp and Town. The Line turned out at Dawn, on an Alarm that the Enemy were approaching. The Cannonade and Bombardment continued all Night.

7th. Still continued Cannonading and throwing shells on both Sides; the Enemy throwing most of their Fire towards the Town, which suffers considerably. A 9-Pounder in our Battery, to the Right of the Barracks, burst, and wounded a Seaman. Carpenter employed in repairing the Ebenezer Battery, which had been broke by the Enemy's Shells. At 7 at Night the Enemy

threw several Carcasses into the Town, and burnt one House.

8th. The Enemy fired little this Morning, but during the Night cannonaded and bombarded the Town furiously.

9th. At Drum-beating in the Morning, the French attacked us warmly on the Right, and endeavoured to storm the Redoubt and Ebenezer Battery. The Grenadiers of the 60th Regiment advanced to support them, and, after an obstinate Resistance by the French, they drove them back with great Slaughter. Their Loss is reported to be 600 or 700 killed, wounded, and Prisoners; our Loss, Captain Tawes, of the Dragoons, who died nobly fighting on the Parapet of the Redoubt; 7 of the 60th killed and wounded, and two Marines killed and four wounded. A Flag from the French, to bury their Dead, which was granted. At 8 at Night the French beat a Parley, but were refused by us. They fired Cannon and Shells during the Night

without any other Effect than destroying the Houses.

10. This Morning sent a Flag to bury their Dead. The Rebels sent one for the same Purpose. The Truce lasted from ten till four, P. M. The French fired several Cannon when it expired. Between 8 and 9, P. M., our Picquets fired on the Right several Shot. The Lines lay on their Arms all Night, and the Seamen stood to their Cannon. No other firing from either Side during the Night.

11th. This Morning very Foggy. No Alarm from the Enemy. Our Line very alert and in high Spirits. The French and Rebels sent in Flags of Truce the greatest Part of the Day; the Enemy employed burying their Dead, carrying off their Wounded, and searching for their Missing. The French take off all their Cannon and Mortars during the Night, leaving only some small Field-pieces to amuse us. Our whole Lines in Spirits, ready for another Attack. Several Desert-

ers, French and Rebels, came in, and all report that the Enemy are moving, and that their Loss in the Attack is much more than we imagined. The Rebels miss 1,300; the French Loss uncertain, but greater than the Rebels, as they fought like Soldiers, and were killed and wounded; but the Rebels' loss is from Desertion immediately after the Defeat.

12th. The French amused us with four Cannon Shot at Daybreak. More Deserters came in; say they are retreating. Count d'Estaing was at the Attack, and was dangerously wounded in two Places, and the Flower of the French Army killed or wounded; Count Pulaski mortally wounded. The Enemy very quiet all Night. Opened a new Battery on the Right, of three 4-Pounders.

13th. We fired a Gun at 2 in the Morning. The French returned the Shot. The whole Line very alert and under Arms. A Flag out at nine, to return the wounded French Officers and Soldiers. The Frigate

in the Back River moved down at high water. Heard several Guns from the Sea, which we suppose Signals. More Deserters come in, who reported the Enemy's Loss to be great. The Rebel Militia are mostly gone off, and the Rest dispirited and ready to March to Charles Town. Our Batteries in Front fired on the Enemy's Works at Intervals during the Night. The Enemy returned the Fire, which seemed to come from one Gun. Nothing more material during the Night.

14th. More Deserters from the French and Rebels, who make the same Report as the Former. At nine this Morning a Flag out, to settle an Exchange of Prisoners. Some Information gives us Reason to expect a vigorous Attack from the French as soon as they have got off their heavy Baggage, Cannon, Sick and Wounded. We fired at Times during the Night on the Enemy's Works. They returned two Shot only from two small Pieces, supposed to be 6-Pounders.



The Enemy very quiet this Morning. We could not hear the Rebels' Revielle. The French beat Drums, but fired no Morning Gun. A Light-ship come to Five-Fathom-Hole, suppose for Water. Two Gallies joined the two former ones. More Deserters come in, and report the Enemy to be on the Retreat; that their Loss the Morning of the Engagement was very great, particularly in their best Officers. They are very sickly, and discontented with the Rebels. The Regiment Darmagnac are on their March to Bewlie, with Baggage, Sick and Wounded. The Night quiet; firing occasionally from the Grand Battery on the Enemy's Intrenchments. They returned three or four Shot.

16th. The French beat the Revielle; the Rebels did not. More Deserters from the French, confirming the former Reports of their great Loss and Retreat. We are, however, on our Guard. The Frigates in the River loose their Top-sails as we suppose, to drop down and cover the Retreat

of the French. An Alarm at Sunset that the Enemy are forming in our Front ; the Lines under Arms. The Rebels set Fire to some Houses on our Right, as well as in our Front. Our armed Negroes skirmishing with the Rebels the whole Afternoon. We fired occasionally during the Night on the Enemy's Works and Camp. They returned two Shot.

17th. The French beat the Reveille ; the Rebels did not. Heard the Report of several Cannon. A Manager of Sir James Wright's, from Ogeeche, reports that the Enemy were preparing to retreat ; that they lost, the Day of the Attack, 1,500 Men killed and wounded, and the Desertion very great. Fire as usual at the Enemy's Works. They returned three Shot.

18th. The French beat the Reveille ; the Rebels did not, but they were heard working in the Woods. The armed Negroes brought in two Rebel Dragoons and eight Horses, and killed two Rebels who were in a foraging Party. Only one Deserter

this Day from the French, who gives the same Account as the former ones. Many Boats observed passing from the Enemy's Vessels and their Army. Nothing material during the Night. We fired as usual on their Works, and they returned three Shot from a 6-Pounder. Our Lines very alert, and generally on their Arms, ready to receive the Enemy.

19th. The French beat the Revielle; the Rebels not, but we heard cutting in the Woods. The Ship that came to Five-Fathom-Hole moved down the River, as we supposed, full of Water, and the French Baggage.

20th. The French beat the Revielle; but did not fire the Morning Gun. Two Deserters that came in this Day, say the Rebels marched off Yesterday Evening, after having fired their Camp. The Frigate fell down lower, but the wind being against her could not go further.

*Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of the  
General Hospital at Savannah, to his Friend  
in this City, dated November 24, 1779.*

“ I NEVER began, my dear Tom, to write a Letter in better Humor. You have, no doubt, already heard of Count D’Estaing having landed 4,397 Troops in this Province, and demanding a Surrender of this Town and Garrison. Being denied, he besieged it by regular Approaches, with the coöperation of the Rebel Army, under Lincoln, amounting to 5,518 effective Men. On the Morning of the 4th of October, their Batteries were finished and opened with the Dawn. Their Cannon were well served, and kept a severe and constant fire till 11 o’clock, A. M. The Night preceding, they opened a Bomb Battery. I counted 187 Shells thrown into Town from it, with little Effect. This Amusement we had till the GLORIOUS Morning of the 9th of October. An Hour before Day the Attack began with a Feint on our Left, the main

Body upon the Right. They stormed twice, but were repulsed with great Loss. Repulsed by whom? By 349 South Carolinians, and 24 dismounted Horsemen! the whole under the Command of the immortal Capt. Tawes, to whose sacred Memory, while my Recollection of his unequalled Merit lives, I'll pay an anniversary Tribute. The Peace of Heaven be with him.

The French lost 67 Officers killed, and 594 Privates, killed and wounded. The Rebels lost 633. D'Estaing is wounded in the Arm and Leg—not mortally. Pulaski is dead of his Wounds, and was thrown overboard on their Passage to Charles Town. We were two Days employed in burying their Dead. The Morning of the Attack, I had Charge of a 9-Pounder with Capt. Brown,<sup>1</sup> of the *Rose*, and believe me, Tom, I never was happier in my Life than upon this Occasion."

<sup>1</sup> The Death of Capt. Brown is noticed in the *Royal Gazette*, December 18, 1779.

*Letter from T. W. Moore<sup>1</sup> upon the Siege of  
Savannah.*

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 339, Dec. 29, 1779.]

*Savannah, 4th Nov., 1779.*

\* \* “**Y**OU will see a full Account of what has been doing here; and as I know you wish to hear how Matters went, I will give you a concise Account of the most material Circumstances.

“Count d’Estaing’s Fleet appeared off the Bar the 4th of September, said to be 46 in all—25 of them Ships of the Line; and came to anchor the 9th, and soon began to land their Men and Guns, and were busy in bringing every Force against us till the 16th, when they appeared within 300 Yards of our Lines—upwards of 4,000 French, and 3,000 Rebels. They sent in a Flag, and demanded the Town. General Prevost desired twenty-four Hours to consider, in which Time we were reinforced

<sup>1</sup> One of the Aids-de-Camp of Gen. Prevost. The Letter was addressed to his Wife.

with 800 Men, under the Command of Colonel Maitland, from Carolina. This made us about 2,000 strong, and so very saucy as to refuse to let *Monsieur* and *Jonathan* in.

“The Enemy began to encamp on the 22d to break Ground within 200 Yards of our Centre, and we kept amusing them with our great Guns, so that they could scarce work in the Day Time. On the 24th, a Sortie of the Light Infantry, with 150 Men, was made on the French Intrenchments to make them shew themselves, which they did on our Lads firing in upon them, and retreating back full speed; and at that Instant our Batteries kept a constant Fire on the Enemy, and killed (from their own Account) upwards of 90 Men. We lost but one Officer and three Men. That same Night, the French and Rebels got fighting with one another thro’ Mistake, and ’tis said upwards of 130 killed before they discovered what they were about. From this Time to the 2d

Day of October there was no firing from the Enemy, but we kept constantly amusing them with Shot and Shell, by Day and Night, that did great Execution.

“This Morning, the 2d of October, as we fired our Morning Gun, they opened one of the most tremendous Firings I ever heard ; from 37 Pieces of Cannon—mostly 18-Pounders, and 9 Mortars, in Front, and sixteen Pieces of Cannon from the River, on our Left—mostly 24-Pounders. The Town was torn to Pieces, and nothing but Shrieks from Women and Children to be heard. Many poor Creatures were killed in trying to get in their Cellars, or hide themselves under the Bluff of Savannah River. The Firing lasted for some Hours, and a Flag was sent from us to Count d’Estaing, to allow Time for the Women and Children to go to an Island out of Danger. ’Twas savagely refused ; and that Night they began to fire again, and heave Carcasses and red Shot, which set two Houses on fire, and burnt them down ; but some



proper Persons being appointed to extinguish the Bombs, did it very effectually, and prevented any further Conflagration. From this Time till the 9th, we kept firing by way of Amusement at each other ; but on that Morning, just before Day, our Lines were attacked from Right to Left, and it was not many Minutes before we found the real Storm was to the Right, on a Redoubt called the Carolina Redoubt ; and as I had the Honour of being one of General Prevost's Aids-de-Camp during the Siege, I was ordered to haste to a Redoubt manned by the Militia, to hearten them up. This was about 200 Yards from the Scene of Action.

“ I found these brave Tories full of Spirit, ready to pour upon the Enemy (who were firing on them at too great a Distance to kill) in Case they came within their Shot. On being convinced the Attack was not a Feint, I pushed on and arrived just as Victory had declared in our Favor ; and such a Sight I never saw before. The Ditch

M

was filled with Dead, and in Front, for 50 Yards, the Field was covered with Slain. Many hung dead and wounded on the Abattis; and for some hundred Yards without the Lines, the Plain was strewed with mangled Bodies, killed by our Grape and Langridge.<sup>1</sup>

“I posted back to my General (who is as brave as Cæsar), and gave him the pleasing Account. Soon after a Flag came from d’Estaing for Liberty to bury their Dead, and requested their Wounded. ’Twas granted. Another Flag came from General Lincoln, who commanded the Rebels, for the same Purpose, which was also granted; and that whole Day was taken up in this Service. The Attack *in earnest*, or more properly speaking, *the Storm*, was with 1,800 chosen Men, from every Regiment of French and Rebels, led by d’Estaing, and many of the Nobility of France. General McIntosh<sup>2</sup> commanded the Rebel Col-

<sup>1</sup> Langrel, a kind of Chain-shot, formed of Bolts, Nails, and Pieces of Iron fastened together.

<sup>2</sup> General Lachlan McIntosh.

umn ; but finding a very warm Reception, he prudently put to the Right-about, not without a great Loss ; as, from the Account of Deserters, the Rebels lost over 500. The French honestly own they have lost in killed 800, and many wounded. D'Estaing is wounded in two Places very badly. Pulaski was thought dangerously so, now dead. Many French Officers of distinction killed, as well as Rebels. I saw my old Friend, Charles Mott, a Major, among the Dead, but recollected no other quondam Acquaintance.

“From this Time to the 20th October, we amused each other with Shot and Shells ; and on that Morning we found the Enemy had deserted their Lines and gone off. Much Credit is due to this little Army, and I hope they will have it. Poor Pollard, my Assistant, was killed the 4th of October by an 18-Pounder, my fine valuable Negro Carpenter the 7th, and a beautiful Mare that cost me 20 Guineas ; my Store of Wine, all broke by Shot and Shells, and

my Quarters torn to Pieces; but this is Neighbor's Fate, and the whole Town is in the same State.

“Be it remembered that not more than 150 in the Redoubt, and 60 Grenadiers of the 60th, who had mounted the Walls, defeated this combined Force of 1,800 chosen Men, who attacked the weakest Part of our whole Lines; indeed, two Batteries, manned by the gallant Tars of old England, kept a constant Blaze to the Right and Left on the Enemy, and greatly contributed to the Honour of the Day—the glorious 9th of October.

“As this Account is not for the Press, I shall say nothing of Individuals, more than that everybody behaved well.

“Killed and Wounded on our Side during the Siege, 163.”

T. W. MOORE.

*Summons of Count D'Estaing.*

BY AUTHORITY.

THE Following is a faithful Translation of the Compte d'Estaing's SUMMONS, sent to Major General Prevost, requiring a Surrender of the Town of Savannah to the KING OF FRANCE.

“Count d'Estaing summons his Excellency General Prevost, to surrender himself to the Arms of his Majesty the King of France: He admonishes him, that he will be personally answerable, for every Event and Misfortune attending a Defence, demonstrated absolutely impossible and useless, from the Superiority of the Force which attacks him by Land and by Sea. He also warns him, that he will be *nominally* and personally answerable, henceforward; for the burning previous to, or at the Hour of the Attack, of any Ships or Vessels of War, or Merchant Ships in the Savannah River, as well as of Magazines in the Town.

“The Situation of the MORNE DE L’HOSPITAL, in Grenada, the Strength of the three Redoubts, which defended it, the Disproportion betwixt the Number of the French Troops now before Savannah, and the inconsiderable Detachment which took Grenada by Assault, should be a Lesson for the Future. Humanity requires that Count d’Estaing should remind you of it. After this he can have no Reproach to make to himself. Lord McCartney had the good Fortune to escape in Person, on the first Onset of Troops, forcing a Town Sword in Hand, but having shut up his valuable Effects in a Port deemed impregnable by all his Officers and Engineers, it was impossible for Count d’Estaing to be happy enough to prevent the whole being pillaged.

“Signed                   ESTAING.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Continuation of this Correspondence will be found in the Appendix.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE BRITISH  
AND ALLIED COMMANDERS, AT SAVAN-  
NAH.

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 358, March 4, 1780.]

*Copy of a Letter from Major General Prevost  
to Count d'Estaing, some Days previous to  
the Attack upon that Place, with his An-  
swer thereto, and that of the Rebel General  
Lincoln.*

*Camp Savannah, 6th Oct., 1779.*

SIR,

I AM persuaded your Excellency will do me the Justice to believe, that I conceive, in defending this Place, and the Army committed to my Charge, I fulfil what is due to Honor and Duty to my Prince. Sentiments of a different Kind, occasion the Liberty of now addressing myself to your Excellency; they are those of Humanity. The Houses of Savannah are occupied solely by Women and Children. Several of them have applied to me, that I might request the Favour you would allow

them to embark on board a Ship or Ships, and go down the River under the Protection of yours, until the Business is decided. If this Requisition you are so good as to grant, my Wife and Children, with a few Servants, shall be the First to profit by the Indulgence.

I have the Honour to be, with proper Respect, Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient and humble Servant.

A. PREVOST.

His Excellency,  
Count d'Estaing, &c., &c.

*Reply to the Foregoing Letter.*

*Camp before Savannah, Oct. 6, 1779.*

SIR,

WE are persuaded that your Excellency knows all that your Duty prescribes; perhaps your Zeal has already interfered with your Judgment.

The Count d'Estaing, in his own Name, notified to you, that you would be person-



ally and alone responsible for the Consequences of your Obstinacy. The Time which you informed him, in the Commencement of the Siege, would be necessary for the Arrangement of Articles including different Orders of Men in your Town, had no other Object than that of receiving Succor. Such Conduct, Sir, is sufficient to forbid every Intercourse between us, which might occasion the least Loss of Time; besides, in the present Application, latent Reasons might again exist; there are military ones, which in frequent Instances have prevented the Indulgence you request. It is with Regret we yield to the Austerity of our Functions; and we deplore the Fate of those Persons who will be Victims of your Conduct, and the Delusion which appears to prevail in your Mind.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This Refusal was probably occasioned by the Fact, that General Prevost had himself actually denied a similar Application, made by General McIntosh, in behalf of his Wife and Family, and such other Females as might choose to avail themselves of his Courtesy.—Stevens's *Hist. Georgia*, ii, 214.

We are, with Respect, Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient Servants,

B. LINCOLN,  
D'ESTAING.

His Excellency,  
Major General Prevost.

*List of French Forces at Savannah.*

THE following is handed about as a List of the French Force employed against this Province on their late Expedition :

Ships.			Guns.	Ships.			Guns.
Languedoc,	-	-	90	Hector,	-	-	74
Tonant,	-	-	80	Marfellois,	-	-	74
Robuste,	-	-	74	Vaillant,	-	-	64
Cæsar,	-	-	74	Sphinx,	-	-	64
Annibal,	-	-	74	Recole,	-	-	64
Fendant,	-	-	74	Fantafque,	-	-	64
Dauphin Royal,	-	-	74	Reflechi,	-	-	64
Zelee,	-	-	74	Provence,	-	-	64
Magnifique,	-	-	74	Artesien,	-	-	64
Vengeur,	-	-	74	Sagitaire,	-	-	50
Guerrier,	-	-	74	Fier,	-	-	50
Triumph,	-	-	74	Fortune,	-	-	36

## *Siege of Savannah.*

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Ships.	Guns.	Ships.	Guns.
Amazon, - - -	39	Truite, - - -	26
Iphygenie, - - -	36	Lively, - - -	20
Blance, - - -	32	Ceres, - - -	18
Boudeuse, - - -	32	Fleur de la Mere, -	16
Chimere, - - -	26	Alert, - - -	12
Ellis, - - -	26	Barrington, - - -	8

With several unarmed Sloops and Schooners  
for debarking Troops.

### Land Forces.

600 of the Regiment of Anhalt.  
600 of the Regiment of Auxerrois.  
500 of the Regiment of Dillon.  
1,000 of the Regiment of the Cape.  
700 Martinico Volunteers.  
1,000 of the Cape Regiment of Color.  
1,000 of the Corps of Marines.  
400 Volunteers.

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Total, 5,800

### BURLESQUE LETTER, ATTRIBUTED TO A FRENCH OFFICER.

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 343, Jan. 12, 1780.]

**T**HE following was Yesterday brought  
to Town by a Gentleman from Rhode  
Island. The Original was found on board

the Sloop from Georgia, which went into that Harbour after the British had left it :

*Extract of a Letter from a French Officer off Tybee Island, to his Friend in Charles Town, dated October 21, 1779.*

“The Count d’Estaing is the Wonder of the Age. Cæsar and Alexander were nothing to him. He’s a brave Fellow, and scorns to steal a Victory, or take an Advantage of the Superiority of Numbers. In Savannah, there was not enough of them to give us a Breakfast. We might have starved them in their Works, had not the *Magnanimity* of the Count interposed in their Favour ; and what I have often told you will now be confirmed without a Doubt, that the English are a Parcel of rude, unpolished Savages. He, good Man, tho’t it ungenerous, with an Army three Times their Number, to cut them to pieces, which he could easily have done, and therefore led on to the Attack only a small Detachment of ours, with a Determination to

make them Prisoners of War, (this in Confidence he communicated to Count Dillon and myself the Evening before), but the *rudeness* of those Sea-monsters prevented his generous Intentions, having mistook Pity for Cowardice, they had the Insolence to fire on the *Grand Monarque's* Troops before our Manœuvre could be executed. This of course was attended with some Loss, and as you will readily conceive, occasioned a *little Confusion*, the Americans in their Flight, having (*by Mistake*) fired on their *great and good Allies*. However as the English, by this imprudent Conduct, have forfeited all Title to *Mercy*, they must expect to pay dearly for their Presumption, whenever we do them the *Honour* of paying them another Visit, which I hope will be before long, when I would advise them to make their Wills before they *dare* look us in the Face again, as the Count has sworn to sacrifice their *whole Army* to the *Honour and Glory of the French Arms*.

“We are on the Eve of failing again for the West Indies, where we shall continue a few Months. The barren Sands of Georgia being *beneath our Notice*, having indeed found by Experience that they by no Means agree with our Constitutions.

“The Harmony, my dear Sir, which subsisted between the *Noble Count and General Lincoln*, was astonishing; and if you consider the Satisfaction expressed in the Conduct of their Officers, Valour of their Troops, and the Showers of Compliments rained down upon them for their Intrepidity, you cannot I am sure, doubt but that the Advantage was on our Side, *notwithstanding the Affair seems to drag after it some Disagreeables*. It is true we left some of our Baggage behind, which was not worth bringing off, and which I make no Doubt, these poor half starved Devils, the *Anglois Georgians*, will be very glad to pick up, when they find *we have left their Coast clear*.”

[From the New Jersey Gazette, December 8, 1779.]

*Charlestown, October 20.*

“THE following are some of the Reasons that have been assigned, why the Affault on Savannah did not succeed, viz :

“1st. The Enemy having a much more numerous Garrison than had been represented; being said to consist of 1,700 effective Regulars, and a great Number of Sailors, Marines, Militia and armed Blacks.

“2d. Their having the Advantage of the Prefence, Skill, and Activity of so able and indefatigable an Officer as the Hon. Col. Maitland; who, while our Army was obliged to wait for the bringing up proper Cannon and Mortars from the Fleet, (which took up many Days, and was attended with inconceivable Difficulties, on Account of the Distance of the Shipping, and a Series of tempestuous Weather,) was Night and Day incessantly engaged in adding to the Strength and Number of the Works; upon

which it is said, he employed about 2,000 Negroes.

“3d. The Enemy having by some Means or other, discovered the Approach of our Columns a full Hour before it was possible for them to reach their respective Stations; by which they had an Opportunity of pouring upon their Assailants such a heavy and incessant Front, Flank, and Cross-fire, as no Troops whatever could have sustained, without being disordered, and occasioned the Order for discontinuing the Assault, even while the brave French Troops had gained one of the Enemy's Works, and ours, as brave Troops, another.

“Several Frigates having been dispatched from the Count d'Estaing's Fleet on different Routes, and several other very striking Circumstances have given Rise to a Conjecture that a strong combined Squadron will soon appear in a Quarter where least expected. One of the Frigates, it is said, has been met steering for Havanna, and another going into Chesapeak Bay.”—*Royal Gazette, Dec. 18.*



[From the New Jersey Gazette, dated November 24, 1779.]

“**N**OVEMBER 23. Several Ships of Force, belonging to Comte D’Estaing’s Fleet, arrived in Chesapeake Bay for the Purpose of landing a few sick and wounded Men, and taking Provisions; this being accomplished, they are immediately to proceed for their Station in the West Indies.”—*Royal Gazette, Dec. 4.*

[From the Royal Gazette, December 18, 1779.]

**B**Y Accounts brought from Chesapeake, we are informed there are in that Bay one French Ship of War of 74, and one of 64 Guns. They had landed about six hundred Sick, Wounded, and other truly miserable Objects, rendered such by the direful Service before Savannah,—their Numbers of Seamen so much reduced that they could not hand more than one Sail at a Time, and that they had lost seventy Anchors and Cables when off the Coast of

Georgia; that the Comte d'Estaing was departed for Europe with ten Sail of the Line, several of which had lost their Rudders, and were otherwise much *indisposed*. Several Sail of the Line had returned to the West Indies, unable to reach Chesapeake—the Place appointed for Rendezvous in Case of Separation; and it was reported General Scot, one of the Virginian Commanders in the Rebel Service, was killed at the Siege of Savannah.<sup>1</sup>

*Journal of the Voyage of His Majesty's Ship  
Experiment, Commanded by Sir James  
Wallace.*<sup>2</sup>

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 370, April 15, 1780.]

\* \* \* “**S**EPTEMBER 24, 1779, spoke  
a Cartel from New Providence  
to Charlestown, with 65 Prisoners on board;  
Hilton Head, bearing W. N.W. The Car-

<sup>1</sup> This proved to be an Error.

<sup>2</sup> This Officer was the Son-in-law of Sir James Wright, the British Governor of Georgia.

tel informed us of having seen 20 Sail under Hilton Head, and seemingly large Ships, and stood to the southward; quarter past four, the Wind N.W., saw three large Ships in the S.W. Quarter; wore and made all the Sail we could from them, steering N.E. At 5 found them in Chase of us, and saw two Sail to the westward bearing down upon us; turned all Hands to Quarters. At eight, they hoisted French Colours; and the *Sagittarius* coming very close up with us, she brought to, and gave us two Broadfides. We then drew from her. But few of her Shot reached us. Got up a large fore Yard and Sail, and made all the Sail we could from them. The *Sagittarius* wore, and made Sail after us again. At half past eight got within half Gun Shot. We hoisted our Colors, and came to Action with her, during which Time all the other Ships being within Gun Shot of us, we struck our Colours, having neither Masts or Sails to command our Ship. The Ships coming up with us were two *Seventy-*

*fours, two Frigates and the Sagitaire of 54 Guns.”<sup>1</sup>*

[From the Pennsylvania Journal, dated March 1, 1780.]

*Baltimore, February 22.*

A CORRESPONDENT who arrived in Town last Night from Virginia, hath been so obliging as to communicate the following Intelligence:

“That an Express from Charlestown (South Carolina), reached Petersburg<sup>2</sup> the 13th instant, with a Dispatch from Gen. Lincoln to Gen. Scott, advising him THAT THE ENEMY HAD RECEIVED A STRONG REINFORCEMENT AT SAVANNAH, supposed to be the Troops which left New York in December<sup>3</sup> last,—That in Consequence, Orders were immediately sent to Gen. Woodford, to hasten the March of the Virginia Troops, the last of

<sup>1</sup> Sir James Wallace was sent to France for Exchange, there not being an Officer of equal Rank for Exchange in the Country.

<sup>2</sup> On Appomattox River, Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> The 26th of December.

whom left Fredericksburgh<sup>1</sup> on Friday last, — That Gen. Hogan and his Brigade were met the 3d inst. ten Miles southward of Halifax, North Carolina, — That the *Fendant*,<sup>2</sup> a French Man-of-War of the Line, left the Capes the 4th instant.” — *Royal Gazette*, March 8, 1780.

*Burlesque upon an Appeal by Congress to the  
People of the United States.*

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 333, Dec. 8, 1779.]

TO THE CONGRESS,  
*High and Mighty Fate Fixers.*

IN your last Address to the good People of America, you roundly asserted, (rather too precipitately I guess,) “the Independence of America was fixed as Fate.”<sup>3</sup> The late Disaster in Georgia, and the Suc-

<sup>1</sup> On *Rappahanock River*, Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> Of 74 Guns, Mons. *Vaupreuil* Commander.

<sup>3</sup> The Spirit, but not the Language of this Sentiment is embraced in the Address of Congress to the People upon the Subject of the Finances and Public Debt, dated September 13, 1779.

cess of the British Admiral in the West Indies, make it necessary again to address the worthy Yeomen, lest they should withhold the necessary Supplies of Bread and Pork to your great and good Allies; but, as I presume, with d'Estaing and Lincoln, you are a little chagrined lest the Opportunity should be lost; I have ventured to indite the following, at the Service of your High Mightinesses, and am, till Fate brings on a Restoration, Yours,

OLIVER.

*The Address of the Congress of the United States to the Good People, the Farmers.*

**W**HEN you consider the Bondage you groaned under, when subject to the British Government; we flatter ourselves you will not be so lost to your own Feelings, and the sacred Liberty of your Country, as to withhold the necessary Supplies for our great, good and gallant Allies; who, "having fought and bled freely in your Country's Service," are now come amongst

you to eat sparingly and leisurely, of your Bread and Pork. We assured you in our former Address, "Your Independence was fixt as Fate," because founded on your Virtue, and love of your Country. You have now a glorious Opportunity of putting it to the Tryal, and by furnishing our good Allies with Provisions, shewing your disinterested Patriotism. And as a further Encouragement to the virtuous Yeomen of these States, *We do Resolve*, That the Farmers of these States shall, during the Space of six Months, be exempt from all Taxes whatsoever, on the following Conditions:

That they immediately deliver to Committees appointed for that Purpose, all their Wheat, Flour, Rye and Indian Corn, together with all the Beef and Pork, reserving for themselves and Families, all the Bran, Husks and Oats, together with the Offal of the said Beef and Pork; and in order to obviate all Objections to the above reasonable Request, We further ordain, that the said Farmers deliver all their Horses to

the Quarter Master General, for the Benefit of the States, who will furnish Oats from the Continental Store, and thereby leave a sufficient Supply of Oat-meal for the said Farmers and their Families: It will be expected, as the said Farmers will then have little Use for their Hay and Straw, they will send it to the Quarter Master General, with the said Horses, to be given gratis.

And Whereas, it appears to us inconsistent, that any of our fellow Beings should remain in a State of Slavery, whilst we, for this three Years, last past, have enjoyed the great and glorious Privileges of Liberty;

*We do Resolve*, That all Negroes in Slavery, shall after the first Day of January next, be free from their Masters, and one half of them delivered over to his Most Christian Majesty, the King of France's Ambassador, to satisfy some urgent Claims, which we at this Time are not able to answer. The other half of the aforesaid



Negroes, to be hired out to such Masters, as a Committee appointed for that Purpose shall approve.

And Whereas, it appears to us, just and necessary that the said Negroes, for the great and valuable Blessings of Freedom, should contribute to the public Expences of these States, we further ordain, that the whole of the said Negroes' Wages be paid into the public Treasury.

And to the GOOD PEOPLE of America in general we DECLARE :

That immediately on the Arrival of Count d'Estaing at Georgia, we did proclaim a general Day of Thanksgiving, to be held in these States, on the ninth Day of December next, not doubting but a complete Victory over all the British Forces in Georgia was "fixt as Fate;" but it has pleased the Lord, for our sparing the Tories, the Amalekites, and taking only their Sheep and Oxen, their Negroes and Land, to suffer us to be defeated, and his Most

Christian Majesty's Exertions to rescue us from Slavery to prove abortive;

We therefore declare it our Will and Pleasure, that the said ninth Day of December, be turned into a Day of Fasting and Humiliation, by all those who think it most proper at this Time.

Nevertheless, anxious not to depress the Spirits of the good People of these States, we further declare, that all those who chuse to make it a Day of Thanksgiving; may with Propriety, thank God it is no worse.

*Eulogy upon Colonel Maitland.*

[Lieutenant Colonel John Maitland, of the 71st Regiment, after sharing the Labors of the Siege, sickened and died of a Fever on the 25th of October, 1779, at Savannah. His Rank as Lieutenant Colonel dated from October 14, 1778. A Letter, dated November 18, 1779, and published in the *Royal Gazette*, December 15th, 1779, says:]

“THE late Colonel Maitland was one of the most active Officers at the Commencement, and during the Progress

of the present War. His Zeal and Gallantry were sufficient Incitements to lead him where Danger dignified and rendered a Post honourable. Though he possessed an easy Fortune, had a Seat in the House of Commons, and was of an advanced Age, yet he never availed himself of such powerful Pretensions, or expressed a Desire of retiring from the Field of Honour. Unshaken Loyalty, genuine Patriotism, undaunted Bravery, judicious Conduct, steady Coolness, and unremitting Perseverance, constituted his Character as an Officer. His Benevolence was ever exerted when Indigence presented; he not only relieved, but sympathized with the Distressed. To inform him of any Person that required charitable Exertion was an ample Recommendation: His Disposition was so extremely amiable, that to know him was to admire him. His Address was easy and engaging; his Language strong, nervous and persuasive. His Affability rendered him pleasing to every Observer. He was

beloved by his Friends, respected by his Acquaintances, and revered by every Officer and Soldier who had the Happiness to be under his Command. His Country will feel the Loss of so accomplished a Chief; his Acquaintances long lament the Loss of so valuable a Friend; the Indigent search in vain for another so eminently Benevolent; and the Soldiers, long accustomed to his pleasing Command, lament his Death, and revere his Memory."

*On the Death of Colonel Maitland.*

By MRS. D[ELANCE]Y.

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 373, April 26, 1780.]

O'ER Maitland's Corse, as Victory reclin'd,  
 Reflecting on the Fate of human Kind;  
 Is this, (she cried), the End of all thy Toils?  
 What now await thy Laurels, or thy Spoils?  
 Worn with Fatigue, thou cam'st thy Friends to save,  
 Saw them reliev'd—then sunk into the Grave.  
 Now Grief and Joy together mix their Cries,  
 Savannah's sav'd—yet gen'rous Maitland dies!  
 In vain around, thy conqu'ring Soldiers weep,  
 Thy Eyes are clos'd in Death's eternal Sleep;  
 Yet while a grateful King and Country sighs,

O'er the lov'd Ashes, Marbles proud, shall rise ;  
Nay, e'en the Foe, releas'd awhile from Fear,  
Confess thy Virtues and bestow a Tear ;  
Own, that as Valour strung thy nervous Arm,  
To gentle Pity did thy Bosom warm —  
Oh ! double Praise to make the Haughty bend,  
Yet make a vanquish't Enemy a Friend ;  
Thus Maitland falls — but his undying Name  
Shall shine for ever in the Rolls of Fame.

The SPIRIT of Colonel MAITLAND to  
Mrs. D——y, on the foregoing Lines.

*Elysian Fields.*

FROM those blest Realms where Joys eternal reign,  
Accept my Thanks, D——y, for thy Strain.  
Within a World, to Malice ever prone,  
Where generous Candor is but seldom known,  
Where Censure's thousand Tongues unceasing wound,  
And private Virtue in the Foe is drown'd ;  
'Twas kindly done a Soldier's Name to save,  
Nor let it perish with him in the Grave.  
What, tho' my Country to her Warriors gone,  
May grateful raise a monumental Stone,  
A few short Years their Courses shall roll o'er,  
And the vain Structure will exist no more ;  
But far beyond whate'er a Nation pays,  
My Soul esteems the fair D——y's Praise.  
Where's now the haughty Heav'n aspiring Tomb,  
Rear'd for her Cæsar, by afflicted Rome ?  
Fall'n beneath the ruthless Hand of Age !  
Yet Cæsar lives in Maro's sacred Page !

So when in Ruin lies the laurel'd Bust,  
 And Tombs and Statues moulder in the Dust,  
 Thy Verse, D——y, shall transmit to Fame  
 Immortal as your own, your Maitland's Name.

*Epitaph on the Honourable Colonel Maitland.*

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 401, Aug. 2, 1780.]

WHEN Gallic Perfidy and Rebel Pride,  
 Prefumed the British Lion to subdue,  
 With rapid Wing, but not before untried,  
 From Beaufort's Banks the gallant Maitland flew.

In Time to save, he reached Savannah's Coast,  
 The Force of France, and perjured Foes defied;  
 Repell'd, dispers'd the formidable Host,  
 Preserv'd a Country, blest'd the Day, and **DIED.**

*Opening of Trade with Georgia.*

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 383, May 31, 1780.]

*Dublin, March 14.*

THIS Day at Noon, the Lord Mayor  
 received two Letters from the Com-  
 missioners of his Majesty's Revenue, of  
 which the following are Copies :

My LORD.

I am commanded by the Commissioners of his Majesty's Revenue to transmit to your Lordship, for the Information of the Merchants and Traders of this City, the inclosed Copy of a Letter which the Board have this Day received from John Robinson, Esqr., Secretary to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, from which it appears, that the Province of Georgia is declared to be in the Peace of his Majesty.

I have the Honour to be, my Lord, your  
Lordship's most humble Servant,

W. MOLESWORTH.

*Custom House, Dublin, March 14, 1780.*

Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor.

My LORDS and GENTLEMEN.

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury a Letter from Lord George Germain, dated

the 11th of February last, transmitting the Copy of a Proclamation which has been published in Georgia, declaring that Province in the Peace of his Majesty, and desiring my Lord will give the necessary Directions to the Officers of the Revenue throughout his Majesty's Dominions, to permit the same Trade and Intercourse with Georgia as might lawfully be carried on before the Act of 15th of his present Majesty, unless where Alterations have been made by subsequent Acts. I am commanded by their Lordships to direct you to give the necessary Orders to your Officers accordingly.

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen, your  
most humble Servant,

JOHN ROBINSON.

*Treasury Chambers, March 8, 1780.*

Com'rs Revenue, Ireland.



*Letter with Criticisms upon the Siege of  
Savannah.*

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 428, Nov. 4, 1780.]

TO WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esq.<sup>1</sup>

*Metiri se quemque suo Modulo ac Pede. verum est.* HOR.<sup>2</sup>

I HAVE the Pleasure, which I wish always to enjoy, of being a Stranger to your Person. But who is a Stranger to your Character? And what Character but yours could meanly skulk under Security, to profane the most honored Names—to exult on the Fate of a patriot Martyr,<sup>3</sup>—and, and with malignant Breath, attempt to blast those Laurels, which will bloom when Livingston is plunged among his kindred Fiends?

Having had Patience enough to peruse an Address in Loudon's New York *Casket*,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An ardent Patriot, and Governor of New Jersey.

<sup>2</sup> It is a Truth, that every one ought to measure himself by his own proper Foot and Standard.—Smart's *Horace*, Epistle vii.

<sup>3</sup> Major Andre.

<sup>4</sup> Published at Fishkill, N Y., at this Period.

signed Z, and said to come from you, I cannot resist the benevolent Impulse, of warning those who may unwarily take the same Rubbish, of the burning Embers it conceals. In attacking you with your own Weapon, the Pen, I do not undertake to convince you; whoever points out the right Road, shews the Way your Nature will not permit you to pursue. Tho' the envenomed Shafts of Malice cannot penetrate your Armor of conscious Vice, shall Malice bend her bow with Impunity? Forbid it Justice! Forbid it, ye generous Feelings of Humanity!

You measure all great and good Actions by the Standard of a perverse Mind, and cannot look for their Source, but in a black and viscious Heart, like Livingston's. Malevolence ever casts a dismal Shade over the finest Pictures. In the Language of your poisonous Tongue, you will describe Brutus as a *mere* Affassin,—Cæsar as going to the Senate on the Ides of March, with

a *torpid Mind*,—and Cato as dying with  
*all his native Sullenness.*

Callous to all the amiable Sensation  
which dignify human Nature, is it possible  
for you to conceive why wise Men have  
deemed the greatest of all Victories to be,  
a Victory over the Passions? When I re-  
flect on a signal Victory of this Kind, I  
feel myself compelled to turn from so  
loathsome an Object as you are, and ex-  
claim with Shakespeare's Prince,

---

Thou hast been,  
As one, in suffering all, hast suffered nothing;  
Give me the Man  
That is not Passion's Slave, and I will wear him  
In my Heart's Core, ay, in my Heart of Hearts.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Since my dear Soul was Mistress of her Choice,  
And could of Men distinguish, her election  
Hath seal'd thee for herself: for thou hast been  
As one, in suffering all, that suffers nothing;  
A Man, that Fortune's buffets and rewards  
Hast ta'en with equal Thanks: and blest'd are those,  
Whose Blood and Judgment are so well co-mingled,  
That they are not a Pipe for Fortune's Finger  
To sound what Stop she please. Give me that Man  
That is not Passion's Slave, and I will wear him  
In my Heart's Core, ay, in my Heart of Heart,  
As I do thee."—*Hamlet*, Act iii, Scene ii.

It is strange so shrewd a Politician as Mr. Livingston *thinks himself*, should exceed the Limits of his Abilities, in displaying his deep Discoveries to the gaping Throng. As you have turn'd Soldier *only*, in your Closet, 'twas somewhat bold to decide so peremptorily on Deeds of War. Accordingly, like an inexperienced General, you have exposed your weak Side to the Enemy, and rashly attacked him where he is invulnerable. Whether your Description of Charlestown<sup>1</sup> is your own Offspring, or the Tale of one of the trembling Garrison, who view'd it thro' the false Medium of his Fears, it is equally immaterial; its *Falsehood* is notorious to Thousands of brave Witnesses, and its improbability obvious to every military Professor.

When the *invincible* Troops of your *great* and *good* Ally, supported by your renowned *Continental Army* appeared before Savannah,

<sup>1</sup> Alluding to the Capture of Charleston, which occurred May 12, 1780.

it was judged imprudent to *assault* an almost unfortified Post, thinly garrisoned, very moderately furnished with Artillery, much extended, and destitute of a superior naval Force. When a Body of British Troops, not proportionally superior to the Numbers of the Garrison, shew themselves before Charlestown, Mr. Livingston, *at his warning Desk*, votes for the *Assault*; by which he, unawares, pays them the highest Compliment. The Place was provided with a Profusion of Artillery, and every kind of military Stores.

No Place or Fortrefs can have greater natural Advantages than Charlestown. Towards Ashley River, the only adjoining Water at first in the Power of the Assailants, there is one accessible Landing. This the besieged had cautiously fortified in Front, and could have protected by a heavy intersecting Fire from various Batteries.

On the Land Side, the Defences you ignominiously term *Intrenchments*, would have been less formidable, had they been com-

posed of more permanent Materials. Count d'Estaing tired himself in trying to *battre en brèche* against the *Sand Banks* of Savannah. From the Days of Goliah to those of Livingston, there never were Troops who could not call a Halt at a wide Ditch nine Feet deep, two Rows of Pallisades in its Bottom, and flanked with Cannon.

These consummate Generals, the Count d'Estaing and General Lincoln, after having long remained "before such a Place" as Savannah, "with open Trenches, and all the Apparel of a regular Siege," tried an *Assault*. They attempted to carry by Storm a square Redoubt, consisting simply of a Ditch and Sand Parapet, without a Pallisade or Fraise on it! The vaunting *Grenadiers de France Sabre a la Main*, took French Leave by a precipitate Flight, leaving Heaps of their martial Comrades in the Ditch, and immortal GLORY WITH THE GARRISON.

General Lincoln's *Sanctum Sanctorum*, the horn Work, closed in the Gorge, and furnished with the heaviest Cannon, justly

claims the Title of a Fort. Beyond the intricate Line, no Obstruction was omitted, and the second Ditch was enfiladed by the Cannon of the Outworks.<sup>1</sup> \* \* \* \*

The Esplanade extended near a Mile; in which Space not a House, Tree or even Post was left standing. The Flatness of the Ground made this Esplanade very advantageous to the Besieged; while the impassable Marshes from each River, forming a Kind of Isthmus at every two hundred Yards, under the Line of five of their bravest Batteries, made it impossible to approach, otherwise than by the judicious Resource adopted.

Whoever reflects on the astonishing Cannonade maintained for so long a Time, by the Garrison of Charleston, and compares it with the Loss of its Enemy, will bestow no great Share of *Glory* on the Former, for betraying Terror in a random and ill directed Fire; surely no *Soldier* can withhold

<sup>1</sup> The Subject here changes from Savannah to Charleston.

due Praise from the Latter, for having gained the glorious Prize at so small an Expense. Little more Labour would have made a Variety of practicable Breaches in the Works, and CHARLESTON would have felt the Fury of incensed Brittons. The frightened Garrison knew it, and obtained what they solicited—not *Glory*, but MERCY—a celestial Virtue, and of course unknown to LIVINGSTON.

A SOLDIER,

*Advertisement.*

[From Rivington's Royal Gazette, No. 333, Dec. 8, 1779.]

THE gallant and intrepid Conduct of the brave GARRISON at SAVANNAH demanding the warmest Acknowledgment from every loyal Breast, it is proposed to raise a Fund for the Purpose of relieving the Sick, Wounded, and Families of those who have fallen; as well as to give such Assistance to the Soldiers, as Circumstances will admit. A Subscription for



these Purposes is now respectfully offered; the Money to be disposed of agreeable to the Opinion of a general Meeting of the Subscribers, with the Approbation of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. In the Mean-time a Committee of sixteen is appointed to collect Subscriptions.

N. B. Donations will be received by Mr. Rivington and Mr. Gaine.

*Charlestown, S. Carolina, October 26.*

LAST Thursday Evening, [October 21st, 1779,] the Hon. Major General Lincoln, commanding the Troops in the Southern Department, returned here from the southward.—*Quoted in the Royal Gazette December 29, 1779.*







## A P P E N D I X .

### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN COUNT D'ESTAING AND GENERAL PREVOST.

Continued from Page 94.

#### *Reply of Major General Prevost to the Summons of Count D'Estaing.*

*Savannah, September 16, 1779.*

Sir,

I AM just now honored with your Excellency's Letter of this Date, containing a Summons for me to surrender this Town to the Arms of his Majesty the King of France; which I had just delayed to answer till I had shown it to the King's civil Governor.

I hope your Excellency will have a better Opinion of me, and of British Troops, than to think either will surrender on general Summons, without any specific Terms.

If you, Sir, have any to propose, that may

with honour be accepted of by me, you can mention them, both with regard to Civil and Military; and I will then give my Answer. In the mean Time I will promise, upon my Honour, that nothing with my Consent or Knowledge, shall be destroyed in either this Town or River.

A. PREVOST.

His Excellency, Count D'Eftaing, Commanding the French Forces, &c. &c.

*Letter from Count D'Eftaing to General Prevost.*

*Camp before Savannah, Sept. 16th, 1779.*

Sir,

I HAVE just received your Excellency's Answer to the Letter I had the Honour of writing to you this Morning. You are sensible that it is the Part of the Besieged to propose such Terms as they may desire; and you cannot doubt of the Satisfaction I shall have in consenting to those which I can accept consistently with my duty.

I am informed that you continue intrenching yourself. It is a Matter of very little Impor-

tance to me; however for Form's sake, I must desire that you will desist during our Conferences.

The different Columns which I had ordered to stop, will continue their March, but without approaching your Posts, or reconnoitering your Situation.

I have the Honour to be, with Respect,  
Sir, your Excellency's most humble  
and most obedient Servant,

ESTAING.

His Excellency, General Prevost, Major General in the Service of his Britannic Majesty, and Commander in Chief at Savannah, in Georgia.

P. S. I appraise your Excellency that I have not been able to refuse the Army of the United States, uniting itself with that of the King.

The Junction will probably be effected this Day. If I have not an Answer therefore immediately, you must confer in future with General Lincoln and me.

*Reply of General Prevost.**Savannah, September 16, 1779.*

Sir,

I AM honored with your Excellency's Letter in reply to mine of this Day.

The Business we have had in Hand being of importance, there being various Interests to discuss, a just Time is absolutely necessary to deliberate. I am therefore to propose that a Cessation of Hostilities shall take place for twenty-four Hours from this Date; and to request that your Excellency will order your Columns to fall back to a greater Distance, and out of Sight of our Works, or I shall think myself under the Necessity to direct their being fired upon. If they did not reconnoitre any Thing this Afternoon, they were sure within the Distance.

I have the Honour to be, &c.,

A. PREVOST.

His Excellency Count D'Estaing, &c., &c.

*Letter from Count D'Estaing to General  
Prevost.*

*Camp before Savannah, Sept. 16, 1779.*

Sir,

**I** CONSENT to the Truce you ask. I shall continue till the Signal for Retreat Tomorrow Night, the 17th, which will serve also to announce the Recommencement of Hostilities. It is unnecessary to observe to your Excellency, that this Suspension of Arms is entirely in your Favour, since I cannot be certain that you will not make use of it to fortify yourself, at the same Time that the Propositions you shall make may be inadmissible.

I must observe to you also, how important it is, that you should be fully aware of your own Situation as well as that of the Troops under your Command. Be assured that I am thoroughly acquainted with it. Your Knowledge in military Affairs will not suffer you to be ignorant, that a due Examination of that Circumstance always precedes the March of the Columns; and that this Preliminary is not carried into Execution by the mere Show of Troops.

I have ordered them to withdraw before Night comes on, to prevent any Cause of Com-

plaint on your Part. I understand that my Civility in this Respect has been the Occasion, that the Chevalier de Chambis, a Lieutenant in the Navy, has been made a Prisoner of War.

I propose sending out some small advanced Posts to-morrow Morning. They will place themselves in such a Situation as to have in View the four Entrances into the Wood in order to prevent a similar Mistake in Future. I do not know whether two Columns, commanded by the Viscount de Noailles and the Count de Dillon,<sup>1</sup> have shown too much Ardour,

<sup>1</sup> "Count Arthur Dillon was the Son of Henry, the Eleventh Viscount Dillon, in the Peerage of Ireland. His Father was a Colonel in the French Service. His Grandfather, Arthur, went into the Army of France, and commanded an Irish Regiment after his Father. \* \* \* The Grandfather of Count Dillon was, in 1705, made Marshal of the Camp, and Governor of Toulon; and subsequently a Lieutenant-General of France. Dillon's Regiment was commanded, after the Death of Marshal Dillon, by his Son James, a Knight of Malta; and when he fell at the Head of this Regiment at Fontenoy, his Brother Edward succeeded to his Command; and it was this Regiment which the young Count Arthur led into the Action at the Siege of Savannah. He was involved in the Troubles of the French Revolution, and suffered under the Guillotine in 1794. His Daughter Fanny was married to Count Bertrand, and was distinguished by her Fidelity to the Emperor, during his long Imprisonment at St. Helena."—Stevens's *Hist. of Georgia*, ii, 226.



or whether your Cannoniers have not paid a proper Respect to the Truce subsisting between us; but this I know, that what has happened this Night is a Proof that Matters will soon come to a Decision between us one Way or another.

I have the Honour to be, &c.,

ESTAING.

His Excellency, General Prevost, Major General in the Service of his Britannic Majesty, and Commander in Chief at Savannah, in Georgia.

*Reply to the foregoing Letter.*

*Savannah, September 17, 1779.*

Sir,

**I**N Answer to the Letter of your Excellency, which I had the Honour to receive about twelve last Night, I am to acquaint you, that having laid the whole Correspondence before the King's civil Governor, and the military Officers of Rank, assembled in Council of War, the unanimous Determination has been that though we cannot look upon our Post as absolutely impregnable, yet that it may and ought

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to be defended ; therefore, the evening Gun to be fired this Evening at an Hour before Sundown, shall be the Signal for recommencing Hostilities, agreeable to your Excellency's Proposal.

I have the Honour to be, &c.,

A. PREVOST.

[White's *Hist. Georgia*, P. 349.]

*English Account of the Capture of Savannah.*

[From the London Gazette, December 21, 1779.]

*Admiralty Office, December 21.*

CAPTAIN Christian, of his Majesty's armed Ship, the *Vigilant*, arrived here early this Morning, with a Letter from Captain Henry,<sup>1</sup> of his Majesty's Ship *Fowey*, to Mr. Stephens, of which the following is an Extract :

*Savannah River, Georgia, Nov. 8, 1779.*

I beg you will be pleased to communicate to the Right Honourable my Lords Commission-

<sup>1</sup> Captain John Henry was born in Anglesea, Sept. 28, 1731, entered the Navy in 1744, was a Lieutenant in 1762, and became Post Captain Nov. 22, 1777. He became Rear Admiral July 4, 1794, Vice Admiral Feb. 14, 1799, and Admiral April 23, 1804.—Marshall's *Royal Naval Biography*, i, 64.

ers of the Admiralty the following important Particulars :

That the French Fleet, under the Count D'Estaing, consisting of twenty Sail of the Line, two of fifty Guns, and eleven Frigates, arrived on this Coast the 1st of September past, from Cape François, having on board a large Body of Troops, purposely for the Reduction of this Province. They sailed from the Cape on the 20th of August, and came through the windward Passage, when they dispatched two Ships of the Line and three Frigates to Charlestown, to announce their coming, and prepare the rebel Force by Sea and Land to join the Count D'Estaing. These two Ships of the Line and Frigates, were seen from Tybee, the 3d of September, when Lieutenant Lock, of the *Rose*, was sent to reconnoitre them, and brought Word they were French.

Lieutenant Whitworth, who commands the *Keppel* armed Brig, was ordered to get ready a fast sailing Tender of his own, to proceed to New York with this Intelligence, and sailed with his Dispatches on the 6th, but was chased in again by seven Sail. On the 7th, at Night, he made another Attempt, wherein there is every Reason to hope he was successful.

On the 8th, forty-one Sail were discovered to the Southward of Tybee, plying to the Windward. The Wind being Northerly, as it had been for some Days past, drove them to the Southward of this Port.

Major General Prevost, at Savannah, was immediately acquainted with their Appearance, who went to work with every Exertion to increase the Fortifications of the Town. Despatches were sent to the Hon. Colonel Maitland, who was posted with Part of the Army on Port Royal Island, and to Captain Christian, of his Majesty's Ship *Vigilant*, to repair to Savannah as soon as possible, with the Troops, Ships and Gallies there.

The *Fowey*, *Rose*, *Keppel*, armed Brig, and *Germain*, provincial armed Ship, were so placed that if the French Ships came in superior, we might run up the River; and the leading Marks for the Bar were cut down.

On the 9th, the whole French Fleet anchored off the Bar, and next Day four Frigates weighed and came to Tybee Anchorage. It was determined on their Approach, to run up the River with the King's Ships, and join our Force with the General for the Defence of the Town. At this Time the French were sending Troops

from their Ships, which were first put into small Crafts from Charlestown, and run into Ofabaw Inlet; from whence they were landed in Launches at Bowley, thirteen Miles from Savannah, under Cover of four Galleys; and their Frigates were preparing to advance up the River.

From the 10th to the 13th we were busy sending to Town, Part of the *Fowey* and *Rose's* Guns and Ammunition, in Vessels sent by the General for that Purpose. On the 13th the *Fowey* and *Rose*, being much lightened, sailed over the Mud Flat to Five-Fathom-Hole, three Miles below the Town, from whence was sent up the Remainder of the Guns and Ammunition.

The *Comet* Galley and *Keppel* armed Brig were directed to place themselves below the Mud Flat, so as to cover the Passage of Colonel Maitland, with the King's Troops from Port Royal, through Wall's Cut, from whom we had not heard since the Communication by Boats being cut off.

The 14th and 15th the Seamen were employed in landing the Cannon and Ammunition of the Ships from the small Vessels; and this having been done, the Seamen were appointed to the

different Batteries, and the Marines incorporated with the Grenadiers of the 60th Regiment.

On the 16th, the Count D'Estaing summoned the General to surrender the Town to the Arms of his most Christian Majesty;<sup>1</sup> at the same Time saying, his Troops were the same who so recently stormed and conquered the Grenadas; that their Courage and present Ardour were so great, that any Works we should raise, or any Opposition we could make, would be of no Import. Not intimidated with this Language, the General called a Meeting of Field and Sea Officers, when it was resolved to take twenty-four Hours to consider. In that Time the Troops from Beaufort arrived in Boats from the *Vigilant* and Transports (in Callibogie Sound), through Wall's Cut, under the Direction of Lieutenant Goldenborough of the *Vigilant*; and now the Count D'Estaing had his final Answer, "that we were unanimously determined to defend the Town."

<sup>1</sup> This Summons, in the Name of D'Estaing alone, for a Surrender to the Arms of France, led Gen. Lincoln, upon his arrival, to remonstrate to the Count, as the Americans were acting in conjunction with him. The Matter was soon settled, and it was agreed that all Negotiations should in Future be conducted jointly with him.—Bowen's *Lincoln*, 302.

The General, ever attentive to increase the Defences of the Town, with Captain Moncrief, our principal Engineer, was now indefatigably, Night and Day, raising new Works and Batteries, which astonished our Enemies; and every Officer, Soldier and Sailor worked with the utmost Cheerfulness; and I have the Pleasure to inform their Lordships, the General has been pleased to express his particular Satisfaction with the Services of the Officers of the King's Ships and Transports during the whole Siege.

It being apprehended that the Enemy's Ships might come too near the Town, and annoy the Rear of our Lines, it was judged expedient to sink a Number of Vessels to stop the Passage. His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, making at this Time seventeen Inches of Water an Hour, after sheathing her as low as we could at Cockspur, her Bottom Worm-eaten quite through, and her Stern rotten, as appears by a Survey of Shipwrights held on her a short Time before, wherein it was declared she could not swim over two Months, her Guns, Men, and Ammunition being on Shore, I thought her the most eligible to Sink, as her Weight would keep her across the Channel, when lighter Vessels could not,

owing to the Rapidity of the Current, and hard sandy Bottom, which prevented them from sticking fast when they were sunk. The *Savannah* armed Ship, purchased into the King's Service some Time before by Commodore Sir James Wallace, was scuttled and sunk also; four Transports were sunk besides, which blocked up the Channel; several smaller Vessels were sunk above the Town, and a Boom laid across the River, to prevent the Enemy sending down fire Rafts among our Shipping, or landing Troops in our Rear.

The *Fowey*, *Keppel* Brig, *Comet* Galley, and *Germain* provincial armed Ship, were got to Town previous to sinking the Vessels; the *Germain* having her Guns in, was placed off Yamacraw to flank our Lines.<sup>1</sup>

Three French Frigates were now advanced up the River to the Mud Flat; one of them, having 12-Pounders, with two Rebel Gallies, carrying two 18-Pounders in their Prows, anchored in Five-Fathom-Hole; from whence

<sup>1</sup> The *Germain*, the only Vessel that was not dismantled, was anchored above the Town, and commanded every Approach through the low Grounds bordering the Musgrove Creek.—Stevens's *Hist. Georgia*, ii, 215.



the Frigate sailed into the Back River, with the intent to cannonade the Rear of our Lines. They threw a great Number of Shot, which, being at their utmost Range, did no Execution. The Galleys, advancing nearer, did some Damage to the Houses. A few Shot now and then from the River Battery made them keep a respectable Distance.

The French having now made regular Approaches, and finished their Batteries of Mortars and Cannon, near enough to our Works, on the 3d of October, at Midnight, opened their Bomb Battery of nine large Mortars. At Daybreak they also opened with thirty-seven Pieces of heavy Cannon, landed from their Fleet, and fired on our Lines and Batteries with great Fury.

This lasted Day and Night till the Morning of the 9th, when finding little Notice taken of their Shot and Shells, at Daybreak stormed with their whole Force, the Count D'Estaing at their Head.

This Attempt proved most fatal to them, for they met with so very severe a Repulse from only three hundred Men, assisted by the Grape-shot from the Batteries, that from this Day

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they worked with indefatigable Labour to carry off their Cannon and Mortars, and descended to a Degree of Civility we had hitherto been Strangers to. Their Loss was very great; most of their best Officers and Soldiers being killed or wounded, the Count D'Estaing among the Latter.

On the Night of the 17th, the French entirely quitted their Works, retreated to their Boats, and embarked under Cover of their Galleys. General Lincoln, with the Rebel Army, retreated up the Country with the greatest Precipitation, burning every Bridge behind them; and we are told their Army is totally dispersed.

The French have been favoured by the Weather to their utmost Wishes the whole Time of their being on this Coast; their great Ships lying constantly at Anchor in fourteen Fathoms, and the small Craft from Charlestown employed watering them from this River. The only Accident we know they met with, was losing one Boat with one hundred Men.

When the French Troops were all embarked, an Officer was sent on Shore to exchange Prisoners. This being finished, they lost no

Time in venturing down the River with their Frigates and Galleys to Tybee.

The *Vigilant*, with the *Scourge* and *Vindictive* Galleys, the *Snake*, half Galley, and three Transports, were obliged to remain at Callibogie the whole Siege, where Captain Christian, of the *Vigilant*, secured them in so strong a Position, and erected a Battery on Shore to protect them, that the French and Rebels thought it most prudent to let them alone. They are now all at Tybee, the French Fleet having left this Coast the 26th of October; and their Frigates left this River the 2d of November.

On the 4th of November the *Myrtle*, Navy Victualler, who was taken by the French, and turned into a watering Vessel, being blown out of this River a few Days before they left it, returned to Tybee with a Rebel Galley, expecting to find their Friends. They both fell into our Hands. The Galley is called the *Rutledge*, carries two 18-Pounders in her Prow, and four Sixes in her Waist. I have named her the *Viper*, and appointed Mr. John Steel, Master's Mate of the *Rose*, to command her, with an Establishment similar to other Galleys, until the Admiral's Pleasure is known. Mr. Steel's Behaviour

at the Battery, on the Spot where the French and Rebels stormed our Line, deserves particular Notice.

His Majesty's Ship *Ariel* of twenty-four Guns, on a Cruise from Charlestown (when the French came on this Coast), was taken on the 11th of September, after a gallant Resistance, by the French Frigate *Amazon*, of thirty-six Guns. His Majesty's Ship *Experiment* having lost all her Masts and Bowsprit in a Gale of Wind on her Passage from New York to Savannah, fell into the Middle of the French Fleet off this Bar, and was taken on the 24th of September, together with the *Myrtle*, Navy Victualler, and *Champion*, Store Ship.

LIST OF THE FRENCH FLEET ON THIS COAST UNDER  
COUNT D'ESTAING.

*First Division*—Mr. Bougainville.

Le Guerriere, -	-	74	Le Province, -	-	64
Le Magnifique, -	-	74	Le Marseilles, -	-	64
Le Cæsar, -	-	74	Le Fantasque, -	-	64
Le Vengeur, -	-	74			

*Second Division*—Comte D'Estaing.

Le Languedoc, -	-	74	Le Vaillant, -	-	74
Le Robuste, -	-	74	Le Artizien, -	-	64
Le Zele, -	-	74	Le Sagitaire, -	-	54
Le Annibal, -	-	74			

*Third Division.*

Le Tonant, - -	80	Le Pendant, - -	74
Le Diademe, - -	74	Le Refleche, - -	64
Le Hector, - -	74	Le Sphynx, - -	64
Le Dauphine Royal,	70	Le Roderique, Store-	
Le Royal, - -	70	ship, - -	00

*Frigates.*

Le Fortune, - -	38	La Chimere, - -	36
L'Amazon, - -	36	La Bordeaux, - -	36
L'Iphigene, - -	36	La Bricoli, - -	36
La Blanche, - -	36	La Lys, - -	18

*English Ships Taken.*

Experiment, - -	50	Lively, - -	20
Ceres, - -	18	Alert Cutter, - -	14

The Land Forces on board this Fleet were the Irish Brigade (Dillon), the Regiment of Foix, the Grenadiers, Light Infantry, and a Picquet of the Regiments of Armagnac, Agenois, Bram, and Royal Rouffillon, and of the Colony Troops of Guadaloupe, Martinique, Cape François, and Port au Prince, with Marines of the Ships, amounted to about five Thousand five Hundred Men. They landed at first four Thousand, and at different Landings about three Hundred more (the Rebels had three Thousand), besides some Hundreds

of free Blacks and Mulattoes, taken on board in the West Indies.

This Fleet is very badly manned, very sickly, and the Ships in very bad Condition,—short of Anchors and Cables, having no running Rigging to reel but what came out of the *Champion* Store Ship, from New York, and intended for this Port. We have every Reason to believe this Expedition cost them two Thousand Men.

RETURN OF SEAMEN AND MARINES KILLED AND  
WOUNDED DURING THE SIEGE.

*Fowey*—One Marine killed, one wounded.

RETURN OF THE OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN FORCES  
WHO WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED IN THE ACTION  
AT SAVANNAH, OCT. 9, 1779.

*Killed.*

Second Regiment—Major Wife, Lieutenant Bailey.

General Williamson's Brigade—Captain Be-  
raud.

Charlestown Regiment—Captain Shepherd.

South Carolina Artillery—Captain Lieuten-  
ant Donnom.

Major Jones, Aid to General McIntosh.

*Wounded.*

Cavalry—Brigadier-General Count Pulaski, Captain Bendelo, Captain Giles.

Second Regiment—Captain Roux, Lieutenants Gray and Petre.

Third Regiment—Captain Tanar, Lieutenants Gaston and Deffaufure.

Sixth Regiment—Captain Bowie.

Virginia Levies—Lieutenants Parker and Walker.

Light Infantry—Capt. Smith, of the Third; Captains Warren and Hogin, of the Fifth; Lieutenant Vleland, of the Second; Lieutenant Parsons of the Fifth.

South Carolina Militia—Capt. Davis, Lieutenants Bruneau, Wilkie and Wardel.

*English Return of Casualties in the different Corps during the Siege.*

[From White's History of Georgia, P. 352.]

ONE Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 4 Sergeants, 32 Rank and File, killed; 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Sergeants, 1 Drummer, 56 Rank and File, wounded; 2 Drummers, 2 Rank and File, missing; 5 Sergeants, 2 Drummers, 41 Rank and File Deserted.

*Names of Officers Killed.*

Lieutenant Henry McPherson, 1st Battalion  
71st, 24th September.

Lieutenant Tawfe,<sup>1</sup> of ditto, and Captain-  
Lieutenant of Dragoons, 9th of October.

Captain Simpson, Georgia Loyalist, 8th of  
October.

Ensign Pollard, 2d Battalion, De Lancey's,  
4th of ditto.

*Names of Officers Killed.*

Captain Cozens, 3d Battalion New Jersey  
Volunteers, 24th of September.

Lieutenant Smollet Campbell, 2d Battalion  
71st, and Lieutenant of Dragoons, 9th of Oc-  
tober.

Captain Henry, of the South Carolina Roy-  
alists, 9th of October.

A. PREVOST, M. G.

*Camp Savannah, Oct. 18, 1779.*

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Tawfe; Date of Rank as Lieutenant, December  
6, 1775.



*Letter from General Lincoln to Congress.*

*"Charleston, October 22, 1779.*

Sir,

**I**N my Last, of the 5th ult., I had the Honor of informing Congress that Count d'Estaing was arrived off Savannah.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SECRET PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS. September 26, 1779.—

"The President laid before Congress two Letters which he had received from Mr. Gerard, written to him by J. Plombard, and dated Charleston, South Carolina, one the 5th and the other the 8th September instant, which were read, giving Information of the Arrival of Count d'Estaing at Georgia: Whereupon,

"*Resolved*, That Copies of the Letters from Mr. Plombard to Mr. Gerard, of the 5th and 8th of September, instant, communicated by Mr. Gerard to the President, be sent to General Washington. That the General be also informed of the Intention of our Ally, that the Armament under Count d'Estaing shall operate against the Enemy in these United States; and that General Washington be authorized and directed to concert and execute such Plans of Coöperation with the Minister of France, or the Count, as he may think Proper.

"*Whereas*, Congress have received authentick Information of the Arrival of Count d'Estaing with a powerful Fleet to coöperate with these United States; and whereas, by the vigorous Exertions of the said States, the allied Forces may be enabled to strike an important Blow against the Enemy,

"*Resolved*, That it be most earnestly recommended to the several States to furnish General Washington with such Aid as he

Orders were immediately given for assembling the Troops. They reached Zubly's Ferry and its Vicinity on the 11th, and some were thrown over. The 12th and 13th were spent in crossing the Troops and Baggage, which was effected, though not without great Fatigue, from the Want of Boats,<sup>1</sup> and badness of the Roads through a deep Swamp of near three Miles, in which are many large Creeks. The Bridges over them the Enemy had broken down. We encamped upon the Heights of Ebenezer, twenty-three Miles from Savannah, and were joined by Troops from Augusta under General

may require of them respectively, as well by Detachments from their Militia as by providing that the allied Armaments in the United States be speedily and effectually furnished with ample Supplies of Bread and other Provisions; and that the most vigorous Exertions be made for that Purpose."—*Secret Journals of Congress*, i, 127.

<sup>1</sup> The only Conveniences for crossing were two Canoes, one of which would hold three, and the other fifteen Men, and an unfinished Flat. Lincoln ordered this to be completed, and a Raft to be made of the Boards and Timber of the Buildings. The next Day, the Army began to cross, and the Raft sank on its first Trial; but another Canoe was obtained, and with the aid of this and of the now finished Flat, most of the Troops were transported to the Georgia Side before Night.—*Bowen's Life of Lincoln*, 301.

McIntosh. The 14th, not being able to ascertain whether the Count had yet landed his Troops, though several Expresses had been sent for that Purpose, we remained encamped. On the 15th, being advised that the Count had embarked Part of his Troops, that he would that Night take Post nine Miles from Savannah, we moved, and encamped at Cherokee Hill, nine Miles from the Town. The 16th, we formed a Junction before Savannah. After reconnoitering the Enemy's Works, and finding the Town well covered, and knowing their Determination to defend it, it was deemed necessary to make some Approaches, and try the Effects of Artillery<sup>1</sup> From the 18th to the 23d, we

<sup>1</sup> "While the Siege was going on, detached Parties of the Americans obtained some Success against a few Troops of the Enemy, who had not succeeded in getting into Savannah before the Town was completely invested. On the 19th, Pulaski was sent, with a Body of Cavalry, against a Party of the Enemy who had landed on Ogeechee River. He returned the next Day, having made a Number of Prisoners, and driven the Others on board their Vessels. On the 1st of October, Colonel [John] White, of the Georgia Line, succeeded, by an Extraordinary Stratagem, in capturing the Remainder of what was probably the same Party, Vessels and all, as they had not dared to leave the River, through Fear of the French Fleet. White

were employed in landing and getting up the Ordnance and Stores; a Work of Difficulty, from the Want of proper Wheels to transport them, the Cannon being on Ship Carriages. On the Evening of the 23d, Ground was broken; and on the 5th Instant, the Batteries of thirty-three Pieces of Cannon and nine Mortars were opened on the Enemy, and continued with Intervals until the 8th, without the wished

had with him only Captain Etholm, three Soldiers, and his Servant; but, knowing how much the British were alarmed by their Position, not being able to put to Sea, and having the Army of the Allies between them and Savannah, he conceived the Design of frightening them into a Surrender. He kindled a Number of Fires on the Shore, ranged in the Manner of a Camp, rode about, giving Orders in so loud a Voice as to be heard on board the Vessels, and then, going out to the Enemy with a Flag of Truce, summoned them to surrender. Captain French, of Delancey's Battalion, who commanded the Party, believed that a large American Force was on Shore, and actually surrendered his Detachment, and one hundred and thirty Stand of Arms, the Crews of the Vessels, and the five Vessels themselves, four of which were armed, the largest mounting fourteen Guns. Articles of Capitulation were drawn up and signed by him. White pretended that it was difficult to restrain the Animosity and the plundering Propensity of his Men, and therefore ordered the whole Band to go on Shore, without their Arms, and follow three Guides, whom he would send to them, by whom

for Effect. The Period having long since elapsed which the Count had assigned for this Expedition, and the Engineers informing him that much more Time must be spent, if he expected to reduce the Garrison by regular Approaches, and his longer Stay being impossible, Matters were reduced to the Alternative of raising the Siege immediately, and giving up all Thoughts of Conquest, or attempting the Garrison by

they would be conducted to Lincoln's Army, while his Party would follow in their Rear. They readily assented; for as most of them were Tories, they had a great Dread of their Countrymen who acted as Militia, since great Cruelties were often practiced on the two Parties. White sent his three Soldiers to guide them, and, remaining behind with Captain Etholm, collected a few Militia in the Neighborhood, with whom he overtook his Prisoners, and brought them safely into Camp.

"Colonel Lee gives this Story in his History of the War, and adds: 'The Affair approaches too near the Marvellous to have been admitted into these Memoirs, had it not been uniformly asserted, as uniformly accredited, and never contradicted.' There is no Doubt of its Truth; as it is related in Lincoln's private Manuscript Journal of the Siege, is mentioned in his Letter to Congress, and, among his Papers, I have found Colonel White's Letter to him, describing the Affair, and the original Articles of Capitulation, signed by 'Thomas French, Captain of De Lancey's First Battalion.'"—Bowen's *Life of Lincoln*, P. 305.

Affault.<sup>1</sup> The Latter was agreed on ; and on the Morning of the 9th the Attack was made ; and it proved unfuccefsful, and we were repulſed with ſome Loſs. When the Count firſt arrived, he informed us that he would remain on Shore eight Days only. He had ſpent four Times that Number ; his Departure, therefore, became indiſpenſable ; and to reëmbark his Ordnance and Stores claimed his next Attention. This was completed on the 10th. The ſame Evening, having previously ſent off our Sick, Wounded, and heavy Baggage, the American Troops left the Ground, reached Zubly's Ferry the next Morning, recroſſed, and encamped that Night in Carolina.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "It was determined to make an Affault. This Meaſure was forced on D'Eſtaing by his marine Officers, who had remonſtrated againſt his continuing to riſk ſo valuable a Fleet in its preſent unrepaired Condition on ſuch a dangerous Coaſt, in the hurricane Seaſon, and at ſo great a Diſtance from the Shore that it might be ſurpriſed by a Britiſh Fleet. In a few Days the Lines of the Beſiegers might have been carried into the Works of the Beſieged ; but under theſe critical Circumſtances no farther Delay could be admitted. To affault, or to raiſe the Siege was the only Alternative. Prudence would have dictated the Latter ; but a Senſe of Honor determined to adopt the Former." —Ramsay's *Hiſtory of South Carolina*, i, 316.

<sup>2</sup> General Lincoln's Want of Succeſs at Savannah, and ſubſequent Defeat at Charleſton, did not abate the Confidence in

The French Troops encamped, on the Night of the 10th, about two Miles from Savannah. They were, after twenty-four Hours, reëmbarked at Kincaid's Landing.

Our Disappointment is great ; and what adds much to our Sense of it, is the Loss of a Number of brave Officers and Men, among them the late intrepid Count Pulaski.

Count D'Estaing has undoubtedly the Interest of America much at Heart. This he has evinced by coming to our Assistance, by his constant Attention during the Siege, his undertaking to reduce the Enemy by Assault, when he despaired of effecting it otherwise, and by bravely putting himself at the Head of his

which he was held by the Commander-in Chief, by Congress, and by the People. He subsequently participated in the Siege of Yorktown, was appointed Secretary of War, commanded the Troops sent against Shay's Rebellion in Western Massachusetts, and served on several important Commissions. In 1788 he became Lieutenant-Governor of his native State. General Washington appointed him Collector of Boston, and he lent his full Influence to the Measures of the first President.

In 1806 he resigned his Office, under a Weight of growing Infirmities. He died at his Home in Hingham, Mass., May 9, 1810, at the Age of seventy-seven.—*Mass. Hist. Collections*, 2d Ser., iii, 233; Bowen's *Life of Lincoln*; Sparks's *Biog. Series*, xxiii.

Troops, and leading them to the Attack. In our Service he has freely bled. I feel much for him; for while he is suffering the Distress of painful Wounds, he has to combat Chagrin. I hope he will be consoled by the Assurance that, although he has not succeeded according to his Wishes and those of America, we regard with high Approbation his Intentions to serve us, and that his Want of Success will not lessen our Ideas of his Merits."

*Extract from the King's Speech to Parliament, November 1, 1780.*

\* \* \* "BY the Force which the last Parliament put into my Hands, and by the Blessing of Divine Providence on the Bravery of my Fleets and Armies, I have been enabled to withstand the formidable Attempts of my Enemies, and to frustrate the great Expectations they had formed; and the signal Successes which have attended the Progress of my Arms in the Provinces of *Georgia* and *Carolina*, gained with so much Honour to the Conduct and Courage of my Officers, and to the Valour and Intrepidity of my Troops,



which have equalled their highest Character in any Age, will, I trust, have important Consequences in bringing the War to a happy Conclusion: It is my most earnest Desire to see this great End accomplished; but I am confident you will agree with me in Opinion, that we can only secure safe and honourable Terms of Peace by such powerful and respectable Preparations as shall convince our Enemies that we will not submit to receive the Law from any Powers whatsoever; and that we are united to a firm Resolution to decline no Difficulty or Hazard in the Defence of our Country, and for the Preservation of our essential Interests."

*American Account of the Siege of Savannah.*

Furnished by an Officer engaged in the Attack.<sup>1</sup>

"EARLY in Sept. 1779, the *Amazon* French Frigate appeared off Charleston Bar; the Viscompte de Fontanges, Adjutant General to the Army under Count D'Estaing, landed and conferred with Gen. Lincoln, when an Attack upon the British Force in Savannah, by the

<sup>1</sup> Major Thomas Pinckney.

combined French Army, said to consist of three thousand Men, and one thousand American Troops to be furnished by General Lincoln, was agreed upon. By Order of General Lincoln, Colonel Cambray of the Engineers, Captain Gadsden and myself, embarked on board the *Amazon*, then commanded by the celebrated Circumnavigator La Perouse.<sup>1</sup> In a Day or two after we left Charleston, we joined the French Fleet, consisting of twenty Ships of the Line, and several Frigates, when we went on board the *Languedoc*, to be under the immediate Command of Count D'Estaing, who had desired that some American Officers, acquainted with the French Language, might be sent to him. In passing before Beaufort, D'Estaing was apprised that Colonel Maitland, with a considerable Part of the British Force, was stationed at that Place, and was aware of the Advantages which would result from preventing his Junction with the main Body at Savannah. Our Progress was

<sup>1</sup> After the Peace of 1783, he was appointed to conduct a scientific Expedition on a Voyage of Discovery. His last Communication was dated February 7, 1788, from Botany Bay, and a Mystery hung over his Fate till 1827, when it was learned that his Ships were lost on one of the Islands of the New Hebrides Group.

delayed some Hours off the Bar; and it was reported that some of the smaller Vessels were preparing to enter, but the Plan was relinquished because the Pilots furnished from Charleston refused to undertake to carry them in. This was the first great Error of this short, but disastrous Campaign. The whole British regular Force amounted only to two thousand five hundred Men, of which Maitland commanded eight hundred at Beaufort; had these been prevented from joining Prevost at Savannah, it is probable the Latter would have capitulated, or certainly could not have made the same formidable Resistance. I know, however, from the Acknowledgement of the principal Pilot, that he did refuse to carry in the Vessels.

“The Fleet then proceeded off Savannah Bar, where Information being received that the British had a Company of Regulars posted on Tybee Island, D’Estaing determined to attack them. Accordingly, he landed with the Officers of his Staff, the three Americans, and his Body-guard, composed of a Subaltern’s Command of about twenty Marines; we marched near half Mile in the Direction of the Fort, when D’Estaing, looking back and seeing only his slender

Escort, asked the Adjutant General, where were the Troops to reduce the British Post? M. de Fontanges answered that he had received no Directions to order any Troops for the Occasion. The General appeared much irritated, replying that he had informed him of the Object he had in View, and that it was his Duty to have brought with him the Number of Troops necessary for the Occasion. While this was passing, a Couple of Negroes came by, who being interrogated, informed that the Post had been withdrawn early that Morning. This extraordinary Occurrence is mentioned to show something of the Manner of Proceeding of the Commander-in-chief of the Expedition, and of the Footing on which he stood with the Officers under his Command.

“The Fleet then proceeded off Affeeba Sound, where about eighteen hundred Troops were embarked in the Boats of the Fleet, and proceeded at Night fall twelve Miles up the River to Beaulieu. The Order for landing, directed that the Boats should follow, as expeditiously as they could, (in that in which the General embarked, a Lantern was hoisted,) and on reaching the Landing, the Troops were to

range themselves next to those whom they would find drawn up, without any Regard to Corps. It was fortunate for the General, whose Boat being lighter than the Rest considerably outrowed them, that a British Post with two Field-pieces had been withdrawn the preceding Day, or the Boats which arrived first, must have been greatly annoyed; the Bluff of Beaulieu commanding a long Reach of the River up which they passed. The Landing with such a Body, would probably have been effected, but certainly not without considerable Loss. No Time was lost after the Landing of the Troops, in marching to Savannah; it appearing to be the Desire of the General to arrive there before the Day appointed for the Rendezvous with General Lincoln.

“The Morning after the Army encamped, within a short Distance of Savannah, a Flag of Truce was sent in, requiring the Surrender of the Post and Garrison, to the *Army of His Most Christian Majesty*. A Delay of twenty-four Hours for the Answer, was required and granted; before their Expiration, Maitland brought in his Detachment, and the Demand of Capitulation was rejected.

“General Lincoln, with the American Army, arrived near Savannah at the Time agreed upon, which was the 17th September, and on the 23d, the two Armies formed a Junction, and encamped together within about a Mile and a half of the Enemy's Lines, the French on the Right. Here I joined my Regiment, which being the First of South Carolina, was encamped on the extreme Left of the Line.

“It appeared now to be the Determination of the Generals, to endeavour to carry the Post by regular Approaches; for the Enemy's Line of Defence, which was scarcely begun when D'Estaing's Summons was given, had, in that Interval of ten Days, become formidable; it extended along the sandy Ridge or Bluff, on which Savannah is built, from the Swamp below the Town to Yamacraw Creek, which is its upper Boundary. It consisted of a Chain of Redoubts with Batteries, the whole covered in Front by a strong Abbatis. The principal Battery appeared to be in the Centre of the Line, where stood, when we first approached it, a large public Building of Brick, but which disappeared in one Night, and in a Day or two a formidable Battery was opened upon us from

its Site. The next Work in Importance was the Spring Hill Redoubt, which was on their extreme Right, and commanded Yamacraw Creek, at the Mouth whereof was stationed a British Galley. This Line was admirably adapted to the Enemy's Force; if it had been a closed Line, their two thousand five hundred Troops could not have manned the Whole, especially as they were obliged to have some slight Works on each Flank, and to pay some Attention to their Front on the River, as the French had sent some small Vessels of War with a Bomb-ketch into the Back River, which is only separated from the main Channel by an Island of Marsh. From the 23d September,<sup>1</sup> when our Army first broke Ground, we continued working in the Trenches with great Affiduity. Our Batteries opened on the 5th of October, but though well served, apparently with little Effect. The Sap continued to be pushed forward until the 8th, when the Remonstrance of the Officers of the French Fleet against their being detained longer on the Coast, induced Count D'Estaing to inform General

<sup>1</sup> I kept no Memorandum of the Dates, but have referred to Gen. Moultrie's Memoirs for them.

Lincoln that he must withdraw his Force; but to prove his Desire to serve the Cause, he offered to coöperate in an Assault upon the British Lines. This appears to have been accepted as the *Pisfaller*, and on that Day we were ordered to parade near the Left of the Line at 1 o'clock of the next Morning, where we were to be joined by the French, and to march to the Attack in the following Order:—The French Troops were to be divided into three Columns, the Americans into two, the Heads of which were to be posted in a Line, with proper Intervals at the Edge of the Wood adjoining the open Space of five or six hundred Yards between it and the Enemy's Line, and at 4 o'clock in the Morning, a little before Daylight, the whole was, on a Signal being given, to rush forward and attack the Redoubts and Batteries opposed to their Front. The American Column of the Right, which adjoined the French, were to be preceded by Pulaski, with his Cavalry and the Cavalry of South Carolina, and were to follow the French until they approach the Edge of the Wood, when they were to break off and take their Position. This Column was composed of the Light Infantry



under Col. Laurens, of the 2d Regiment of South Carolina, and the 1st Battalion of Charleston Militia. The second American Column consisted of the 1st and 5th South Carolina Regiments, commanded by Brigadier General M'Intosh of Georgia. A Corps of French West India Troops, under the Viscompte de Noailles, the Artillery, and some American Militia, formed the Reserve under General Lincoln.

“A faint Attack by the South Carolina Militia and Georgians, under Brigadier General Huger, was ordered to be made on the Enemy's Left; but, instead of the French Troops being paraded so as to march off at 4 o'clock, it was near four before the Head of that Column reached our Front. The whole Army then marched towards the Skirt of the Wood in one long Column, and as they approached, the open Space were to break off into the different Columns, as ordered for the Attack. But, by the Time the first French Column had arrived at the open Space, the Day had fairly broke, when Count D'Estaing, without waiting until the other Columns had arrived at their Position, placed himself at the Head of his first Column,

and rushed forward to the Attack. But this Body was so severely galled by the Grape-shot from the Batteries as they advanced, and by both Grape-shot and Musketry when they reached the Abbatis, that, in spite of the Effort of the Officers, the Column got into Confusion and broke away to their Left toward the Wood in that Direction; the second and the third French Columns shared successively the same Fate, having the additional Discouragement of seeing as they marched to the Attack, the Repulse and Loss of their Comrades who had preceded them. Count Pulaski, who, with the Cavalry, preceded the right Column of the Americans, proceeded gallantly until stopped by the Abbatis, and before he could force through it, received his mortal Wound. In the mean Time, Colonel Laurens at the Head of the Light Infantry, followed by the 2d South Carolina Regiment, and 1st Battalion Charleston Militia, attacked the Spring Hill Redoubt, got into the Ditch and planted the Colours of the 2d Regiment on the Berm, but the Parapet was too high for them to scale it under so heavy a Fire, and after much Slaughter they were driven out of the Ditch. When General Pulaski was

about to be removed from the Field, Colonel D. Horry, to whom the Command of the Cavalry devolved, asked what were his Directions. He answered, 'follow my Lancers to whom I have given my order of Attack.' But the Lancers were so severely galled by the Enemy's Fire, that they also inclined off to the Left, and were followed by all the Cavalry, breaking through the American Column, who were attacking the Spring Hill Redoubt. By this Time the 2d American Column headed by Gen. M'Intosh, to which I was attached, arrived at the Foot of the Spring Hill Redoubt, and such a Scene of Confusion as there appeared is not often equalled. Col. Laurens had been separated from that Part of his Command that had not entered the Spring Hill Ditch by the Cavalry, who had borne it before them into the Swamp to the Left, and when we marched up, inquired *if we had seen them*. Count D'Estaing was wounded in the Arm, and endeavouring to rally his Men, a few of whom with a Drummer he had collected. General M'Intosh did not speak French, but desired me to inform the Commander-in-chief that his Column was fresh, and that he wished his Directions, where, under

present Circumstances, he should make the Attack. The Count ordered that we should move more to the Left, and by no Means to interfere with the Troops he was endeavouring to rally; in pursuing this Direction we were thrown too much to the Left, and before we could reach Spring Hill Redoubt, we had to pass through Yamacraw Swamp, then wet and boggy, with the Galley at the Mouth annoying our left Flank with Grape-shot. While struggling through this Morass, the firing slackened, and it was reported that the whole Army had retired. I was sent by General M'Intosh to look out from the Spring Hill, where I found not an Assailant standing. On reporting this to the General, he ordered a Retreat, which was effected without much Loss, notwithstanding the heavy Fire of Grape-shot with which we were followed.

“The Loss of both Armies in killed and wounded amounted to 637 French and 457 Americans,<sup>1</sup> 1000.<sup>2</sup> The Irish Brigade in the French Service, and our 2d Regiment, particularly distinguished themselves and suffered most. The Loss of the British amounted only to fifty-five.

<sup>1</sup> Moultrie.

<sup>2</sup> Marshall.

“Thus was this fine Body of Troops sacrificed by the Imprudence of the French General, who, being of superior Grade, commanded the Whole. If the French Troops had left their Encampment in Time for the different Corps to have reached their Positions, and the Whole attacked together, the Prospect of Success would have been infinitely better, though even then it would have been very doubtful on Account of the Strength of the Enemy's Line, which was well supplied by Artillery. But if Count D'Estaing had reflected a Moment, he must have known, that attacking with a single Column before the Rest of the Army could have reached their Position, was exposing the Army to be beaten in Detail. In fact the Enemy, who were to be assailed at once on a considerable Part of their Front, finding themselves only attacked at one Point, very deliberately concentrated their whole Fire on the assailing Column, and that was repeated as fast as the different Corps were brought up to the Attack. General Lincoln had the Command of the Reserve and covered the Retreat; if he had led the Attack, I think the Event could not have been so disastrous, and I am warranted in this Opinion by the At-

tack he made on the Enemy's Lines at Stono, where, when he found how strongly the Enemy were entrenched, although his Light Infantry, on both Flanks, had gained some Advantage, withdrew the Troops without any considerable Loss.

“The Similarity in the Result of this Attack on Savannah, and that of the British on New Orleans in 1815, is remarkable; the Losses of the Assaultants and their Enemies was nearly in equal Proportion. Neither can Pakenham escape the Censure of Precipitation, in urging the Attack when he knew the scaling Ladders he had ordered were not brought up, and before Colonel Thornton had got Possession of our Batteries on the West Side of the River, which, if brought to bear on the right Flank of the American Line, must have made an important Diversion in Favour of his Attack.”—Garden's *Anecdotes of the American Revolution*, Brooklyn Ed., 1865, iii, 19.

*French Account of D'Estaing's Attempt  
upon Savannah in Georgia.*

[From the Paris Gazette of Jan. 7, 1780.]

*Summary of the Operations of the King's Squadron  
commanded by the Count D'Estaing, Vice Admiral  
of France, after the taking of Grenada, and the  
Naval Engagement off that Island with Byron's  
Squadron.*

A DETACHMENT of the King's Ships and Frigates, under the Orders of Captain de Suffren, went to make the Islands of Curiacou and Union Capitulate, and received the Oath of Allegiance of the Inhabitants. The Sieur Montet, Governor of the Island of St. Vincent, performed the same Operation in the Islands of Becouya; the Surrender of the other little Grenadines followed immediately that of the principal Islands.

The 22d of July, the King's Squadron appeared before St. Christopher's, where the English Squadron was at Anchor under the Batteries in the Road. The English Admiral did not think proper to accept the Battle.

After remaining two Days before St. Christopher's, the King's Squadron failed for St.

Domingo with the trading Fleet of the French Windward Islands. The Count D'Estaing dispatched all these Ships to Europe, which were joined by those of the Leeward Islands, under the Protection of the Ships *le Protecteur* and *la Fier*, and the Frigates *la Minerve* and *l'Alemene*.

With the Remainder of his Squadron he steered for the Coasts of the Continent of America. A Gale of Wind he met with the 2d of September, whilst at Anchor before the Mouth of Savannah, prevented his going up more Northward. Most of his Ships were disabled, and five of them had their Rudders broken.

The Repair of the King's Ships required a considerable Time in a Country where naval Stores are hard to be come at. That Circumstance decided the Count d'Estaing to undertake the Siege of Savannah with the Troops he had on board his Ships, which were joined by 2,000 Men from the United States of North America, under the Command of General Lincoln.

The French Troops consisted of 2,823 Europeans, draughted from the Regiments of Armagnac, Champagne, Auxerrois, Agenois, Garinois, Cambresis, Haynault, Foix, Dillon, Walsb, le Cap, la Gadeloupe, la Martinique



and Port au Prince, including a Detachment of the Royal Corps of Infantry of the Marine, the Volunteers of Vallerie, the Dragoons, and 156 Volunteer Grenadiers, lately raised at Cape François. The coloured Troops consisted of 545 Volunteer Chasseurs, Mulattoes and Negroes, newly raised at St. Domingo.

The Total of the Troops of the Besiegers, including the 2,000 Americans, amounted to 5,524 Men.

The English had in Savannah 3,055 English European Troops, 80 Cherokee Savages, and 4,000 Negroes. The Total of the Troops of the Besieged was 7,165 Men, under the Command of General Prevost.

The 15th of September the English General was summoned to surrender the Place, and on his Refusal the Siege was begun. It was carried on with as much Vigour as the small Number of Workmen would admit of. The Enemy made a Sally the 24th of September, and were repulsed with Loss, and the Sieur O'Dun pursued them as far as their Intrenchments. The Impossibility of continuing a Siege in Form against superior Forces, decided the Count d'Estaing to order the Attack on the Entrenchments the 9th of October. The Enemy, being

informed by Deserters of the Plan of the Attack, had prepared their Defence on the Side intended to be surpris'd.

The French and American Troops attacked with the greatest Vigour, and returned three Times to the Charge; but the Superiority of Numbers forced them to give Way.

The Season was too far advanced for the Count d'Estaing to hope he could terminate the Operations of a Siege; he was afraid lest one of those Gales, so frequent on the Coast of Georgia, should drive his Ships out of the Road, and oblige him to put to Sea, in Order to save them, and thus abandon the Troops employed in the Expedition. He resolv'd to raise the Siege. The Retreat was made in the best Order, and without being molested.

The King's Troops reëmbarked the 20th of October; only two Days after the Rudders of the Ships could be repaired and placed.

The greatest Union has subsisted between the combined Forces.

The Count de Dillon, the Viscount de Noailles, the Marquis de Pont de Naux, the Baron de Steding, the Viscount de Fontages, Colonel and the Sieur O'Dun, Lieutenant Colo-

nel, particularly distinguished themselves in an Operation, as painful by the Fatigues of a Service rendered continual by the small Number of Men, as it was glorious for them, by the Dangers to which they were perpetually exposed, and by the different Manœuvres with which they were charged.

The Chevalier de Trolong du Romain, and the Count de Chaftenet de Puysegur, have proved, by conducting the King's Lighter *la Truite*, under the very Batteries of the Town of Savannah, that an armed Sloop, laden with Artillery of the Calibre of 12, too strong for its Pattern, could back itself against land Batteries of the largest Calibre.

Total of the Killed, 15 Officers, and 168 Subalterns and Soldiers.

Total of the Wounded, 43 Officers, and 411 Subalterns and Soldiers.—*New Jersey Journal*, ii, lxxi, June 21, 1780.

*Count Pulaski.*

AMONG the Losses of the Allies before Savannah, none was more severely felt than that of Count Casimir Pulaski. De-

scended from a noble House in Poland, and reared in the Love of Liberty, he had long contended against the Tyranny that was crushing his native Country; and when Resistance was no longer of avail, he fled to Turkey in the Hope of continuing the Contest against Russia, but a Peace in 1774 put an End to this, and he came to offer his Services to America.

His active and ardent martial Spirit commended him to the Favor of Washington; and, having served without Rank as a Volunteer with much Success at the Battle of Brandywine, was appointed by Congress, September 5th, 1777, to the Command of a Troop of Horse, with the Rank of Brigadier. In 1778 he was authorized to raise an independent Corps, composed of three Companies of Cavalry and three of Foot, which received the Name of "Pulaski's Legion." While this was being organized, he was stationed at Bethlehem, Pa.; and the Protection he afforded to the Female Members of the Moravian Community at that Place was rewarded by the Presentation of a beautiful Silk Banner, tastefully embroidered; and which, after being saved at the Battle of Savannah, was brought North, and finally was deposited with the Maryland Historical Society.

Conflicting Accounts have come down to us relating to the Place of General Pulaski's Place of Burial; and when the noble Monument to his Memory was erected at Savannah, a metallic Case, holding what were supposed to be his mortal Remains, was placed within the Plinth, alongside of the Corner Stone. The Weight of Evidence, however, decides in the Belief, that he died on Board the *Wasp*, and was buried under Water, on the Return of the Army to Charleston. The Subject is fully stated in Prof. Stevens's *History of Georgia*, from which Work this Notice is abridged.

Upon the Visit of the Marquis de La Fayette to Savannah, in 1825, the Corner Stone was laid for a Monument to Count Pulaski, on Chipeway Square, and another to General Greene on Pulaski Square.

An Attempt was made to raise the Funds for this Object, but failed, as did also an Effort to combine the two Enterprises in a "Greene and Pulaski Monument," although a considerable Sum was raised by Lottery for this Purpose. On the 11th of October, 1853, the Corner Stone of another Monument to Pulaski was laid, and the Structure was finished at about the Beginning of the late Rebellion.

An Engraving, representing the Pulaski Monument, and a full Description, and Account of laying the Corner Stone, are given in White's *History of Georgia*, P. 308.





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